

# **Even a Cicada Becomes a Dragon If Reborn**

**– Semi Datte Tensei Sureba Ryuu Ni Naru –**

**-Author-**  
**Abusan**

## - STORY -

I was a cicada. Now I'm a dragon.

I who was reborn in a far place of a different world, was given life as a dragon. As this world's one and only strongest dragon.

Why the cicada was reincarnated as a dragon, I didn't understand, or if I had received life again in order to meet her someday.

For her, I will sing again and again.  
Till the end of my power, till the end of my life.

Miin min min min Miin min min min

# Chapter 1

## The cicada flies away with dragon wings

*As one really lives, lives, lives, one doesn't know the start of life.*

*As one really dies, dies, dies, one doesn't know the end or death. (Kuukai)<sup>[1]</sup>*

The radiance of its life was shorter than the twinkle of a falling star, its flame of life was fleeting like a light snowfall.

Its death was peaceful with neither feeling, temperature, nor smell, it was merely black with no gravity nor horizon.

That person had died in darkness and grabbed the light of life presented, in that case wouldn't his lived life and death be virtually nonexistent?

Because he had spent almost all of his short life in darkness.

...

I was born in an egg and lived in darkness until that day of my seventh summer when I was finally able to escape. I had been living in fear of ants and moles in the earth up until that time.

I thought that there was only darkness due to living in that environment for seven years.

The eternal darkness without end... but I trembled in joy when I finally met the light.

I greeted the morning mist that day as I broke out of my shell and for the first time learned about the thing called life.

Light.

The light of the newborn sun slowly started to reveal its true nature.

The soft pink rays of light instantly changed angle and color.  
As the sun had ascended above me I was dazzled by its radiance to the point that my eyes saw white and the outside of my shell was burning hot from the scorching sun.

A powerful wind blew through like thousands of soft feathers, and the intense smell of grass cured my unreliable sense of smell.

Ah, how severe life was.

In the fierce sunlight my small and lidless eyes shook dizzily.

Light was certainly life. The life that shone fiercely.

Before I realized it I was flapping my wings in the sky.

I didn't learn from anyone, my instincts knew how to fly.

How wonderful it was to fly in the sky... only those who flew would understand it.

Compared to the migratory birds that flew far high in the sky, the degree with which my small wings could flap was like crawling on the ground, but it was enough for the small me.

I ran around in a daze underneath the stagnating midsummer light. At that time, I was certainly alive.

At the bottom of the hot and heavy atmosphere, I flapped my wings to the point that they shook and continued to fly till midday.

Rain fell through the shade underneath the canopy of trees,

I often flew from the hungry beak of crows,

and I slipped through the nets of the bug catching children,

Flying, flying, flying, flying...

Then I realized that I was lying on the ground.

I recognized the group of hard working black reapers approaching me, I understood that this was my death even with my bundle of nerve fiber that couldn't be called a brain.

My sight was becoming dark and I dimly looked back on my life.

Although it was only for a short time I had lived in the sky. I was one with the wind. I played together with the sunlight filtered through the trees.

Even though only a fragment of the wide world, I was able to travel.

In the soil I saw my companions lose their life in the middle of their emergence. Was I fortunate to finish my whole life?

The radiance of the three weeks for sure was a dazzling light that overwrote the seven years in darkness.

Therefore I was almost satisfied with finishing my life as a cicada.

...Almost?

Yeah. There was only one regret in my life.

The moment when the last light faded from my eyes, along with the last breath leaking from my trachea, I thought only of one thing.

Only once was fine, I wanted to copulate with a female cicada...

Without experiencing that... when I think that my life ended without knowing love, the instincts of a species, the desire to rise and be fit for copulation, I was tempted. Before death my small as needle genital began to throb.

In my last moments I burned with desire, and inside the perfect darkness of death the embers kept smoking.

In hindsight, I think that the regret of that desire might have tied me to my next life.

The world after death.

Complete black surrounded me. There was no irregularity or gloss inside the black, however only one last fragment wasn't painted over.

Was it an instant or was it an eternity? The everlasting darkness was once again pierced by a ray of light and my second life began.

Light.

So it was light.

The light was undeniably brought forth by the sun.

I was able to meet the sun again. I didn't think I was going to get the chance to worship it a second time. Suddenly, like a tsunami, vast knowledge flowed into me.

The so called succession ceremony ended and I lost consciousness for a week.

One week passed. When all the gained knowledge finally stabilized in my brain, I realized many things.

The state of this world, the name of my existence, the reversible, the universal, everything was understood.

The small creature I was in my former life was called a cicada.

This world and the world I was in before were completely different worlds.

Various races including humans existed in this world.

There existed a being which reigned over all creatures in this world: the Dragon.

The huge island I currently inhabit was thousands of kilometers away from the continent that humans lived on.

The last true dragon of this world had lived on this island for generations, ever since ancient times.

Before its death, that dragon left behind all of its power and knowledge, placing it into an egg it gave birth to.

And hatching out of the egg... was me.

My insides were overflowing with sage level wisdom and infinite power.

Extending outside with the new light was the deep blue sky.

Before I had realized it I was spreading my wings in the sky.

My time as a cicada couldn't compare to this body, my wings were incomparably stronger, flapping in the sunlight.

The earth rapidly became smaller and the sky gradually grew near.

When I passed through the lumps of clouds that my small cicada wings could never reach, I laughed from the bottom of my stomach.

Thinking of my previous life and how I was born again, I started laughing.

I wasn't able to laugh because of my small cicada brain.

Look! This reborn body.

My hands and feet which were thin like a wire have become thick and strong, so much so that they could even lift a huge rock mountain.

My thin wings which were always blown away by the wind could now create storms when flapped.

My fragile outer shell was now covered in scales harder than any mineral.

My jaw that could only sip sap could now crush even the shell of an iron turtle.

The lowly creature called cicada had become a superior being, a dragon. Fate is whimsical, it seems?

A cicada, let alone a creature from a different world, didn't need to know the reason why it inherited the body and knowledge of a dragon.

Now that it was a dragon such things became trivial.

I certainly still had the memory of my time as a cicada, however such a small memory would disappear from my mind immediately.

I'm a dragon.

It was foolish to compare this to my lifetime of a cicada, a long life awaited me now.

I no longer had to be frightened by insect nets or the beak of a crow, a powerful life awaited me now.

My newfound knowledge was speaking.

I'm now the strongest being in the world. All living beings on the ground can only tremble at my roar.

In this new world there is no one to be afraid of and I should enjoy this given life to the fullest!

I was now this sky's... no, I had become this world's king!

I sang with a loud voice for the beginning of the new life as a dragon!

***"Miin min min min Miin min min min"***

Resounding in the world was my song of joy and courtship.

---

1. ↑ From Touhou wiki: A quote from the Juujuushin ron (十住心論, lit. "Consideration of 10 Classes of Mind") written by Kuukai, founder of Shingon Buddhism. The translation more fitting to the original sentences is: As one repeats to live many many times, he only knows the start or living just like under the shadow. As one repeats to die many many times, he merely knows the end or dying just like in the shade. You should know one of the peculiar Buddhist dogmas is that all ordinary lives are embedded in the eternally rotated wheel except Buddha (or the enlightened monks) — people always get to live as other persons after death, unless they reach the state of enlightenment (satori), the ultimate goal of Buddhism. The original meaning of the

phrase is seen that ordinary people don't/can't realize what the life and death is (i.e. what the self is... what the ultimate truth of Buddhism is) even though they are repeating living and dying, and that Kuukai thinks that he is also one of them.

# Chapter 2

## The dragon learns true kindness

### Part 1

***Thou shouldst eat to live; not live to eat. (Socrates)***

The creature called dragon was equal to god in this world.

Claws that split the earth, wings that tore the sky, wisdom that covered the stars.

The life on any demon beast and phantom beast was scattered like the cherry blossoms in a storm in front of the dragon and reckless human beings, seeking the dragon's knowledge and treasures, faded away and became bones.

The most sacred scales in the world couldn't be penetrated by either the fang of demon beasts or the people's history.

However, even with the power of the great dragon there was an enemy it could never fight.

It could even kill a dragon, it was called the archenemy of all living beings, the name of it,

it was called [Hunger]

It was a matter of course, but the dragon was carnivorous.

To be precise it was omnivorous, but it wasn't possible to live on nuts and fruits with the huge body of a dragon.

When I was a small cicada, it was sufficient to cling to a tree and take a little of the sap that was distributed, but it wouldn't go well with the body which had become a dragon.

If I intended to get sap to satisfy my stomach, one forest would disappear in an instant.

In the first place, I wouldn't like to sip sap now.

I'm a dragon.

Neither my tongue nor my stomach wanted sap any longer.

Only the spray of blood and the scream of meat would bring me the melody of joy.

As for the white dragon that gave birth to me, it occasionally ate the sacrifices carried on the boats from humans that came, it also seemed to have lived by hunting demon beasts and phantom beasts.

I had inherited the memory of where the prey was and I was already equipped with the knowledge on how to hunt.

No, [Hunting] may not be the appropriate word for that.

Basically hunting wild animals was an act of life and death and neither success was guaranteed nor was safety promised.

Herbivores are generally excellent in endurance and running, so capture wasn't easy.

Moreover, even if you cornered the prey for example, it often occurs that you would receive severe retaliation from prey which was in hopeless position.

When hunting it was possible for a manticore to lose its life by being penetrated by the horn of a unicorn.

However the story was different for [Dragon's hunting]. The dragon was an existence on a different level from the other living beings.

Even if I could be compared to newborn. It was impossible for me who was a dragon to fall behind any other living being.

The creature who could escape from my great flight, it didn't exist in this world.

Even if they escaped when they hear the sound of my flapping wings approaching, their consciousness would be taken away with my roar. That was the hunting of the dragon.

Neither vigilance nor precautions are significant for the pitiful preys. The only thing they could do was to pray that I would never pull the old maid someday. In other words, the island inhabited by a dragon was like a huge fish-tank, the hunting of the dragon, was just the act of raising and picking the prey from the fish-tank to its liking.

However, it was also the first time that I actually hunted.

So, before I go out to hunt, I decided to try the thing called dragon's roar first. The dragon's roar was a technique which ate the mind of living beings. Without damaging the body of the prey and only taking the consciousness.

I inhaled a big breath, marked the rocky mountain on the side and released a roar that included magic.

**“Miiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiin!”**

(Translation – Waaaaaaaaaaaaa!)

...Result? The rocky mountain had vanished.

What bad was, was that from the inherited knowledge the dragon's roar ought to not have physical attack power...

After thinking for a while I finally thought of the cause with the wisdom of the dragon. Apparently this phenomenon might have been caused by my previous life as a cicada.

The cicada was a relative large insect but if judged from all living beings it was from a very small category. However the cry wasn't inferior to the howl of a dog with a volume of hundreds of times of a cicada.

In spite of a small body, there was a secret to the cicada why it could cry at such a volume. Actually stomach of the cicada was mostly hollow.

The cicada made sounds with an organ in the chest and the cry was amplified dozens of time in the cavity in the stomach.

Though I was reborn as a dragon, the soul would remember the vocalization as a

cicada from the previous life.

The result, magic and sound wave were included in the dragon's roar and it was also amplified dozens of times by the vocalization of the cicada, it seemed to have become a powerful weapon that could even blow off a mountain.

Anyway, it was good to try it. If the prey vanished it would become only an act of depriving a life in vain.

An empty stomach, surely should soothe the stomach that has become like a cicada belly, so first of all I decided to practice the roar.

After doing well with it I would advance.

Originally the dragon was unmatched in handling magic.

On the same day I succeeded in completely using the roar for physical attack, for mind attack and for courtship and I decided to already rest for today.

Preparations were all ready. Tomorrow I would challenge my first time hunting after reborn from my previous life.

## Part 2

On the morning of the next day I started hunting at sunrise.

The stomach was indeed at its limit already.

To begin with I hadn't eaten anything for more than a week because of inheriting the knowledge.

Honestly, I could die from starving if I didn't fill my stomach with something today.

For my great purpose (Mating), I can't run out of energy in a place like this.

Spreading my wings, I ascend the sky.

The dragon's fish-tank spread below my eyes. Easy prey here and there, I love it.

When 2 hours passed after I started hunting, 10 prey were lying in front of my eyes.

My first time hunting after being born was disappointing because it was so easy.

The prey was supplemented with those from the sky, where I approached with the speed of sound and shot my dragon's roar. With that alone all prey fainted.

I didn't hunt much in this period of time because I had no interest in it besides satiating my hunger, so I gathered only this many prey.

At the center of the island, I discovered a huge rocky mountain and it became a landmark and I placed my captured prey side by side at the foot of the mountain.

Ah, don't misunderstand what I'm saying, I haven't killed any prey before me yet.

I had arranged them like this, but I was unable to decide which prey to eat, because today commemorated my first meal in this world.

Of course the choice of eating all prey didn't exist.

Too much food fattened not only the body but also the mind. A dragon had a body like steel but the mind must also be like steel.

I looked for a special one, so I glared at the demon beast one by one, it was effective and one stirred.

The one that woke up first was from a race called chimera. A lion and a snake, it was known as a ferocious monster that was composed of various animals.

However, now the mane of the lion stood on ends in fear, the hind legs of a goat were trembling **GakuGaku**.

It was no wonder because compared to a dragon the chimera was only ordinary prey.

Well, about the problem of taste, I could tell from the inherited knowledge, the body of the goat was delicious but the lion head and the snake tail weren't eaten very much.

The preceding dragon seemed to have only eaten the part of the goat when it preyed on chimeras.

...Fumu.

“Miin” (*TL: Leave*)

The chimera heard my voice and ran away at full speed while winding up its snake tail.

Why didn't I eat the chimera?

I had decided. I should not be impolite to the life I took and throw its body away after only eating part of it.

When taking the life of a creature, you had to hold gratitude for every drop of blood you ate. A meal was the act of eating a life.

Furthermore, though it was a little digression, in this world the demon beast race didn't have a language and the races that could speak language were phantom beast and demi-humans.

Originally it was impossible thing to hold a conversation with a monster such as the chimera, but it wasn't difficult for me who was a dragon.

Because the soul of language dwelled in the words of a dragon and even if the other party was deaf, the intention can be delivered directly.

The next one to wake up was a race called cerberus.

It had a black body like darkness and 3 heads, it was a brutal demon beast renowned as the gatekeeper of hell.

When the cerberus woke up it recognized my appearance,

“Kuun kuun”

and submitted by showing its belly.

...fumu, was it female...?

Although I considered that it was waste, I decided to release the pitiful demon beast.

In the memory of the preceding dragon I knew that he didn't eat them either because they weren't very delicious. Besides, it wasn't like that I had no other food and there was no reason to intentionally eat the dog which begged for its pitiful life.

When I told that it could leave, the Cerberus barked once and disappeared into the forest.

The next one to wake up was a race called harpy.

This was a race with limbs of a bird and the body of a woman, bird and human, the two of them added together was delicious.

It was the preceding dragon's favorite dish, though he had to restrain himself to no hunt them completely, but it seemed that he had enjoyed the meat of a harpy once a month.

When the harpy woke up and saw me she raised a wordless scream.

Her family was the preceding one's favorite dish and it knew what would happen when carried away by a dragon. While her face paled her mouth moved *PakuPaku*.

However, while her wings shook noisily I could see that the harpy girl didn't utter a sound and a certain question floated in my head.

While she was so frightened by me I asked in a candid tone.

“Miin min min min?” (*TL: By chance, are you unable to speak?*)

The harpy girl shook her head up and down fearfully.

[Pitiful...] I muttered in my mind and stopped.

A harpy was originally a creature that tempted its prey with its singing voice. A harpy who couldn't utter a sound, I didn't know if it could be called a harpy.

How on earth had she lived until now? She would have extraordinary hardships to grow up here.

And when I noticed, I no longer thought of eating this very weak creature.

I tell her to return to her village.

Though the harpy girl blinked repeatedly, but before I changed my mind, it flew away in the direction of its village.

While flying away she occasionally looked back with a fearful impression.

The next one to wake up was a race called lamia. A lamia had the upper body was of a human and the lower body was of a snake and this food seemed to be also a fair delicacy.

The lamia that woke up trembled from my appearance, crouched down to hide its belly with both hands and threatened in a low voice.

I felt a sense of incongruity in its figure.

When I observed carefully, the belly of the lamia seem had a bulge but not from obesity.

(This, possibly...)

No, it surely is. There was only one reason why a creature like a lamia could behave courageously in front of a dragon.

“Miin min min min” (*TL: The brave and gentle mother. I want you to forgive me, I didn't notice that you were pregnant. Be relieved. I do not intend to give you any more*

*harm..... Now, go. And, give birth to a strong child.)*

Were my spoken words so unexpected? The lamia stared at me with a blank expression. She bowed and left this place immediately.

I saw off the lamia with her dignified back.

Though the child was still in her belly, her back was already that of a mother.

Although the dragon's roar may had given some bad influence on the child in her belly...

At the time of hunting, there was a reason why I didn't notice that the lamia was pregnant.

The husband of a married lamia never leaves the side of the female when she was pregnant.

In this case, when I found the lamia and had recognized a male figure who was her husband, I wouldn't have thought of hunting her as food.

However, when I found that lamia, there were no other creatures nearby. In other words...

For me, it was only possible to pray for that mother and child to live happily.

The next one to awaken was a race called lizardman.

It was a demi-human that looked like a lizard standing upright, it seemed like it was also one of the favorite dishes of the preceding dragon.

However, the lizardman was wearing unusual clothes. The knowledge of the dragon taught me that it was something called shrine maiden clothes. It also seemed to be a female, too.

As soon as the lizardman who wore the shrine maiden clothes woke up, she knelt down in front of my feet.

(Well, will it beg for its life...?)

Faced with the trembling prey which bowed down on the ground, I lost my appetite and tried telling it [You may leave too].

But the look of the lizardman that looked at me when she raised her head was contrary to my expectation; it was full of joy and delight.

To me who looked puzzled she began to talk sonorously.

According to her.

Her whole clan had symmetry of faith to the dragon

They believed that the ones eaten by a dragon could attain absolute happiness after death.

Furthermore she was the shrine maiden who held the rituals of the dragon faith.

As a shrine maiden every day she would eagerly await for this day to come.

Her tail shook *BunBun* from side to side like a dog when the shrine maiden of the lizardman told me this.

Was faith such a dreadful thing?! To become food for the dragon, she did not fear instead she was delighted.

Well, I was certainly going to feed on her when I capture her. But, when I was urged to eat from the other side, the thing called human empathy would make me lose the intention to eat conversely.

Above all, I wanted you to stop approaching me with the look of a female mantis. At this rate I didn't know which side was preyed on.

Even though I admonished that I was no longer hungry, she didn't show signs to pull back at all and edged me on [Only the tail at least if the earlier was no good].

I who was perplexed made her faint again with a roar and made the garuda, who just had woken up take her back to the village of lizardman.

Though the garuda would incidentally also leave, but well there was no other way. In fact because they actually resembled a crow I wasn't inclined to eat the garuda.

Afterwards there siren, arachne, pegasus and a huge frog, though I was hungry I wasn't able to get used to the idea of eating these at all, so after all I let go of a prey I had captured.

After I let them go I thought that once again I should hunt some different creature, but even if I caught some different creature I noticed that the same thing would repeat again, so I stopped.

My previous life was a cicada.

It was weak, I was a creature who always aimed to live, I may know too much about the weight of taking a life.

I looked down on this stout body of this world.

For example, if I assumed that I live for 1000 years, exactly how many corpses would pile up?

The purpose of this life, can I achieve it by doing so?

While holding my hunger to the limit, I suddenly remembered the taste of sap which I ate every day in those days as a cicada.

Now that I was on the verge of death, there was no need to lie to myself anymore, let's be honest.

I like sap.

The sweet liquid flowing below the surface of every tree that quenched the severe thirst at midsummer and gave me the energy to live.

No, not only in summer. Even before I became an adult, since I was a totally white caterpillar, I lived from sipping the sap from the root of the trees.

A little spill I received from a big tree was my joy at the time I was a cicada.

Some might think that I would get tired of drinking sap every day, but that was

ridiculous.

The taste of sap was completely different depending on the kind of tree. Rather, even the same kind of tree didn't have the same taste at all.

The sap of a young tree showed its vitality and was pale and fresh.

The sap of a tree at its prime of life had a powerful sweetness that was fully soaked in the light of the sun.

The sap of an old tree ripens in the wood and turns into the taste like the finest of the wines.

My love and knowledge of sap, I may never tell all of it in the short time I had left.

The cicada that lived its whole life only on sap was a sommelier in the field of sap.

Sap

**Sap**

**Ah, sap**

Once again will you quench my thirst?

Will you never again fill my abdomen?

The jaw of a dragon was too large to lick and taste you.

The body of a dragon will crush a tree when only clung to it.

Finally, I sing the love song, the lullaby (Requiem) for myself.

Under fierce hunger, but I thought that it didn't seem so bad to die as it was.

What fate had once brought back by dead body. I was able to fly to the top of the clouds. Although it was short, the life as a dragon was quite good.

However, if I can reborn once again...

I want to become a cicada again.

It was fine even if the jaw was small, I wanted to sing with my companions in a loud voice.

It was fine even if the wings were small, I wanted to fly while bathing in the sunshine filtered through the foliage.

It was fine even if the hands and feet were small, I wanted to cling to the soft bark and hug it.

And above all, I want to drink sap till my stomach was full again.

If I shut my eyes, light and power went away.

Because I was already no longer able to stand, I entrusted my body to the huge rock wall on my back.

The huge rocky mountain which pierced the sky was also the center of the island. This will become my gravestone.

The bare rock that should be cold, for some reason I faintly felt that it was warm.

(Even that was fine...)

At that moment I had the feeling that a voice sounded from the rocky mountain. Before I could think of anything else, a sweet smell stimulated my sense of smell.

It was nostalgic, the fine fragrance could compared to nothing in my memory.

I turn around with confidence and distrust.

How, at the huge rocky mountain I entrusted my body at, amber liquid was flowing out and nearly overflowing the crevice!

Ah, ah!

This was sap! It was sap!

What miracle was this? The original god was said to have created earth and water, but this god now produced sap from the earth for this pitiful dragon?!

I bring my face closer to the rocky mountain and cling to the crevice in the rock, then at last I noticed my own mistake.

I thought that it was a rocky mountain.

It wasn't rock.

It was a tree.

An extraordinary huge tree.

The inherited knowledge of the dragon told me the name of this tree.

Huge tree Yggdrasil

It was located at the center of the island where I lived, it was a holy tree that penetrated up to the heavens.

This was the world tree, it was also called the tree of life, it was said that its leaves had strong healing powers and could even treat dying creatures.

The island where the true dragon lived, was the island with the world tree. This world's only, scared huge tree, Yggdrasil.

In the memory inherited from the predecessor, the world tree was desired and there was the memory of repelling humans who attacked and invaded this island several times.

Although the preceding dragon didn't fight humans to protect the world tree, rather he drove away the humans who entered his territory.

The world tree wasn't involved with the preceding dragon. He seemed to have recognized the huge tree at level of a big mark.

The world tree didn't produce fruits, so the preceding dragon had no interest.

The preceding dragon had no way to know. Inside the tree was a sweetness that existed in no fruit.

The sweet liquid tempted me.

I wonder what the taste of the sap of the world tree was like. I quietly scoop it with my nail and tasted it with a lick.

**“Mimmimiiiiiiiiin! Mimimimimimmiiiiiiiiiiin!”**

(TL: *Buuuuuhyaaaa! Unmeyaaaaaaaiii!*)

Very high class sweetness! Very rich smell! And tender in the throat!

This was indeed a heavenly delicacy! Did such a food exist in this world?!

Compared to this sap I think even the sap of a fir tree was like muddy water.

In front of the best sap the impulse to eat could no longer be stopped. I bury my face into the crack of the tree and sip the sap with a JuruJuru sound.

My throat, my stomach and my cells, the sap of Yggdrasil gradually heals them.

The delicious liquid, while sunk in starvation and dehydration, the desire was further ignited.

More,

Much more.

More gushed out from the spring of life.

But with the large jaw of a dragon I could not face it while sipping sap.

The big nose was in the way and I couldn't reach the interior of the sap.

Ah, how mortifying.

At a time like during those days as a cicada, I would entered deep into the tree through

the gap with my pipe and was able to suck sap as much as I desired... The body of a dragon was such an inconvenient one.

I was asking for things I couldn't have, so I clicked my tongue and suddenly I noticed.

Yes, it is! Didn't I have a long tongue? Even without the pipe of a cicada, shouldn't I be able to take it by licking it with the tongue of a dragon?

My tongue advanced to the interior of the crack. I licked in order to consume all sap that remained there.

When I did that, the more I moved my tongue the more new sap would seep from this honey pot.

If I strongly rubbed the inner walls, the earlier I moved the earlier thick sap would overflow one after another.

And I like a camel in the desert drinking the sky water, I kept licking the crack of the huge tree.

(...I wait... sleep, calm... ly...)

Someone, I felt like someone was calling in my mind. Was that the person who called me some time ago?

But I hadn't finished. It had no relation anything right now.

The one that could disturb my moments of supremacy didn't exist in this world.

Because I'm a dragon!

(...Notice... No,... Fu... Oh, no more...)

My tongue didn't stop.

Unexpectedly the tongue of a dragon seemed to be quite dexterous.  
I thought to leave, but no, more than I thought, I could freely and skillfully move it.

(...There, no... Haa... Oh... Ahhh...)

The unidentified voice could still be heard in my mind, rather than the mysterious voice, my head full of only the thought on how I could consume sap more efficiently by licking.

(...Ha, haa, ha... ah... Ahhhh,... AHHHHHHHHH!)

Finally with someone's cry the sap flowed into my mouth like a flood.

I drank up all the sap and at the same time my stomach was sated. And like the mother's breast that guessed that it finished breast-feeding, the sap suddenly stopped.

And now, through my previous life, I was happily filled with the euphoria that I had not tasted once before.

Power wells up from my body. The footsteps of death had already gone far away.

By Yggdrasil's mercy I was tied to life.

I look up at the huge tree.

A big trunk that rose towards the skies to the other side of the clouds and from the ground I couldn't know its height.

This body of a dragon, I had the illusion as having returned to small cicada, I had a great life there.

No wonder, the greatest living thing in this world wasn't the dragon, wasn't it this big tree?

I put my left hand on my chest and stretched out my right to the huge tree and conveyed my sincere thanks.

"...Haa... Haaa... , at last... , you have calmed down. Gentle dragon."

That time, through the right which was put on the huge tree, someone's voice flowed into my brain.

It was the voice I heard a little while ago. But I couldn't find anyone except the huge tree in this place.

Was it possible, I wonder if this was the voice of Yggdrasil?

Even though the huge tree Yggdrasil was a plant it had a will?

“Fufufu, I have been calling for a while. And like a newborn clinging to its mother’s milk, it seemed to have no reached your ears that was desperately drinking sap.”

When she said like a baby I was embarrassed, but it didn’t feel unpleasant.

When compared to the primeval tree Yggdrasil, even though I had inherited the memories of tens of thousands years of a dragon, I might only be a baby.

I sincerely apologized for my own impoliteness.

The tree with a will, from the tree that was the mother of all creatures, I had shamelessly continued to sip the sap like a stray dog.

But when the huge tree heard my apology she said with affection like a mother.

“Gentle child of dragon, I have seen your conduct for a while. I hope that you could possibly get accustomed to beast blood early.”

Ahh, Yggdrasil seemed to have seen everything when I didn’t eat the beast.

I who hesitated in front of the beasts wasn’t laughed at by Yggdrasil, but instead called gentle.

Rather,

“For the time being, please fill your stomach with my sap as much as you like”

Her benevolence was deep, until I sip blood, until the day I could eat meat, she said that she would give me sap.

Like this wasn’t I like a baby that couldn’t become independent?

While being embarrassed I couldn’t stand still, because the happiness from obtaining sap from the huge tree from now on and I didn’t know what face to make.

The huge tree said to me [Don't feel embarrassed] while saying that remark.

"...But, that..., please suck a little more gently next time."

And she added.

For me this was the first encounter with Yggdrasil.

The huge tree Yggdrasil that was deeply involved in my life as a dragon.

On that day, more than the sap she had, my heart was touched by her benevolence.

And suddenly I remembered the lizardman shrine maiden.

Indeed, she had presented herself to me and I would happily present myself if only for Yggdrasil.

Let's sing the finest praise to the merciful huge tree.

I praised her, the song only she could hear.

**"Miin min min min Miin min min min"**

# Chapter 3

## The lonely dragon wants to mate

### Part 1

*O powerful love! that, in some respects, makes a beast a man, in some other, a man a beast. (Shakespeare)*

The one inexhaustible desire of all living beings, let alone, it was all the more for living beings with intelligence.

It was something I wanted more than being filled. It was the sin of all living beings, their fate.

The act of living was like the rain falling in a desert.

The water mercilessly disappeared in the earth and it didn't know how to remain. The sand extended endlessly in the world and it didn't know the end.

Against the desire that couldn't be stopped, I earnestly continued to struggle, wasn't this what it meant to live?

Nevertheless, even if it was the whim of the moment, the rain appeased the hot sand from the fierce sunshine.

The water entered the underground, it gathered and became a flow and soon it would gush forth and become an oasis.

When continuing to seek the desire as it is, it can be found at the end of the travel.

After all, it might be called happiness.

It might be a little difficult example, but how else would you say it?

Because my stomach was full, I want to mate.

I quenched my thirst with the pleasant early morning sap.

Nobles in Edinburgh were said to wake up with a cup of tea to drink on bed; I woke up in a hollow of the world tree and enjoy the best fresh sap in the morning.

Morning sap was special.

The thing called tree sucked a large amount of water and nutrients from the earth during the night and the sap during the day and night had had the nutrients already drawn out.

Nevertheless I could fill my stomach and drink without limit.

Besides this was the sap from the taiki Yggdrasil. The taste couldn't be described with words.

The taste of her sap, the information could by no means be expressed with the intermediary such as words.

In my mind which was satisfied with the morning sap, the voice of Yggdrasil resounded.

“...fu, haa... ha..... Good morning, did you sleep well last night?”

Her voice that resounded in my mind, was soft like the sunshine filtered through the foliage of a forest, it was gentle.

Because there was no need to converse with words, the nature of the heart had the same nature as Yggdrasil's voice.

“Good morning, Yggdrasil. Thanks to you I was able to sleep very well.”

Yggdrasil became my temporary nest.

Yesterday I fully enjoyed the sap and I decided to take residence in the vicinity of Yggdrasil. The nest where the preceding dragon lived was slightly far from the taiki.

Besides, this was mere sentiment, but I wanted the place where I was born to be the

grave where the remains of the preceding dragon slept.

The soul of the preceding dragon no longer existed in that place anymore, because I who had died once understood it well.

And a grave wasn't where the soul slept. Only the remains slept.  
Those were the only proofs left that he had lived.

None the less everyone made graves. It probably wasn't for the dead, but for those people who are alive.

I decided to make his grave at that place. It wasn't for him, but for me.

When I told Yggdrasil the idea of taking residence in the vicinity,

"Oh? Then we'll become neighbors..... Yes, how about living in my place until you have found a good place?"

She said so and invited me into one of her hollows.

Hollows existed in the world tree. They were much bigger than the body of a dragon and were full of a mysterious tranquility.

At the first glance I had liked this place.

It had the condensation of a firm forest, yet had a faintly sweet fragrance and it filled the whole space, the thick laid bark formed a natural and tender bed.

Such a place didn't exist anywhere else on this world, I under the condition [Until I found my own nest], decided to accepted her goodwill.

"Then, my best regards for this short period of time. Roommate-san."

[Roommate-san] Yggdrasil called the nameless me so.

The first time sleeping in the hollow of the world tree, I was so happy like slowly sinking to the bottom of a spring, I was also happy because I had never experienced sleep in my previous life.

If I slept too deep, would I ever awaken again?

Then I got the delusion that even if I died like this, I wouldn't regret it one bit.

I had no way to know this in my previous life since I was oviparous, the feeling like a baby sleeping with the placenta of its mother, wasn't it like that?

Thus, even if it was temporary, I was unexpectedly able to obtain the best food and home in this world.

Well, when living in tranquility what did a creature seek next?

Food was sufficient, a home to settle down, I felt lust.

So, it was mating.

I was time to clear my regret from my previous life now.

I told Yggdrasil that I would go look for a mate now and that I would return before the sun set.

After being a little speechless at my words.

“Fufufu, I hope you find a wonderful bride. Have a nice day.”

I was seen off with words still filled with the affection of a mother.

## Part 2

Guided by the inevitable fate unexpected encounters happen.

Deep inside the cypress forest I met her.

A flexible and tight body, proportions like an ancient marble sculpture, the surface of her body shined in an evergreen, it was a deep shade as if the green of the forest was hardened and made into a jewel. Four wings that repelled the light, delicate like white crystal that harbored mica within.

Ahh, as I thought, you are the most beautiful in this world.

Tsukutsukuboshi-san

(*Tsukutsukuboshi = Meimuna opalifera*)

So as not to surprise her, I quietly watched her from the shadow of the rocky mountain.

Just by gazing at her figure my body heated up. Her appearance of sipping sap possessed a peaceful elegance, the cool beauty of the cicada world, that was her, Tsukutsukuboshi.

If I was asked why I liked the Tsukutsukuboshi then I could only answer that it was because of my preference.

Every living being had their own preferences.

While the characteristics could be said in words, the impulse couldn't be told by words and those two added together result in the [Preference].

Of course the Tsukutsukuboshi wasn't the only beautiful one.

A deep orange as if the Higurashi was born from the sunset, it made me hold a nostalgia that couldn't be expressed and the Kumazemi abruptly evoked the sensual impulse to preserve the species in my body.

(*Higurashi = Tanna japonensis = Evening Cicada*)

(*Kumazemi = Cryptotympana facialis*)

A cicada without charm didn't exist in the world. Because the strong point of every cicada was their individuality.

But even so, the Tsukutsukuboshi was the most brilliant. That was my preference.

It couldn't be easily explained with words and other people might not understand it even if they knew.

...Ahh, let me correct something. I had said that there didn't exist a cicada without charm in the world, but there was only one exception.

Only the Aburazemi was no good.

(*Aburazemi* = *Graptopsaltria nigrofuscata* = Large Brown Cicada)

Its color was graceless, the cry vulgar, the body was uselessly big and overall there was nothing that could be called elegant.

Its name represented its body and I praise the man who gave it the name Aburazemi.

It had only the ability to gather in groups and in my previous life how many times did I have to taste the bitter experience of fighting over sap...?

Let me say it again, only the Aburazemi was no good.

...Although the story has wandered off the point a little, choosing a partner, it was an act that roughly decided one's life.

Only one person in the long life and so according to one's preferences one should choose a mate selfishly.

No compromises should be made. You mustn't make a mistake in the partner you should choose.

If I give an example, I would only choose the Tsukutsukuboshi as my wife.

The Higurashi was also good, the Kumazemi also looked lovely, but much less would I settle on the Aburazemi.

Now, Tsukutsukuboshi, please hear it! My courting...

“Tsukutsukuboshi Tsukutsukuboshi”

And just when I tried to sing my song of courtship, the song of someone else beside me resounded in the vicinity.

The Tsukutsukuboshi in front of me, after using her wings a little, disappeared into the depths of the forest guided by the song.

.....  
.....  
.....

## NE TO TA RA RE TA !

What was that?! Hateful Tsukutsukuboshi (♂)! To steal the Tsukutsukuboshi (♀) in front of me who I had set my eyes on, what a despicable man!

I released a roar towards the sky. My roar split the clouds and the sky warped.

However, after having no restrain while in rage, I reflect on myself who had become upset.

I was ashamed of the wretched jealousy in my heart.

Certainly the Tsukutsukuboshi (♀) couldn't be tied together with me. However, wasn't it fine if she was happy?

Even if it was someone else, if he can make her happy, shouldn't I send words of blessing to them?

After generously closing the wounds of my broken heart, I changed my thoughts.

In this wide world, the Tsukutsukuboshi wasn't the only female.

Wasn't there the Higurashi as well? Even the Kumazemi might be wonderful.

Even the Niiniizemi might not be bad either.

(*Niiniizemi* = *Platyleura kaempferi* = *Kaempfer Cicada*)

It wasn't impossible to go out with a Aburazemi either.

Being too deeply attached to a distant jewel, the foolish man will miss his happiness at hand and I will never fall to that place.

There wasn't only one form of happiness. You can discover plenty by looking around.

With my renewed feelings I push my way through the forest, to the brides I haven't met and it made my heart race.

.....

.....

.....

### **NE TO TA RA RE TA ! (x3)**

**WHY?! WHY?! WHY?!**

The Tsukutsukuboshi, the Higurashi, the Kumazemi and even the Niiniizemi too, why didn't they listen to my song?! Are they saying that my song has no charm?!

What exactly were they dissatisfied with of becoming the bride of a dragon?! It was the bride of a dragon! The bride of a dragon!

While releasing roars of anger towards the sky many times, I then suddenly noticed.

Well, I was a dragon.

Apparently I held a mistaken obsession to copulate from my previous life as a cicada and it seemed to have bound me.

Furthermore, because I had remembered the taste of sap the other day, I had completely thought of myself as a cicada.

In the first place, even if a cicada was my partner, how on earth did I intend to copulate?

With the size of 1/100 of my genital, was there any way that I could possibly copulate?

Imagine it. A cicada which snuggles up to a dragon, no matter how you see it, it was just resting its wings or otherwise it might be a parasitic kind. In the case of a dragon, it was necessary to find a suitable bride for a dragon.

Good grief, I could have noticed it if I had given it a little thought, the thing called evil of reincarnation was harboring two souls.

Certainly, the incongruous soul would completely change into that of a dragon. The soul of a cicada was insignificant for me who had become a dragon.

That's right. I'm a dragon.

Demon beast, phantom beast, any living being in the world and even the king of creatures, the dragon, wanted to have children.

The joy of becoming the bride of the dragon, I imagined the happiness of becoming my wife.

I sang in a loud voice towards the sky. To the bride I haven't met yet, I delivered my thought.

***Miin min min min Miin min min min***

Did you hear it? Creatures of the island. If you intend to become my bride, then hurry and be prepared.

***Miin min min min Miin min min min***

Did it reach? Creatures of the island. Together with me, let us live until the end of our lives on this island.

***Miin min min min Miin min min min***

My singing voice resounded throughout the island. The dragon's song of courtship wrapped up the whole island.

## Part 3

When the sun rose high in the sky, about ten females had gathered before my eyes.

Well, the ten candidates who had gathered for my cause all had different races, because excluding me dragons no longer existed in this world.

Various races had answered my call. It was a cerberus, a chimera, a lizardman, a harpy , a lamia, a garuda, a siren, an arachne, a pegasus and a huge frog...

...Nn?

If you looked carefully, weren't all of them the creatures I had captured yesterday to feed on and then let go?

Well? I should have sung a song of courtship, so why did they appear in front of me again?

The one to answer my question was the aforementioned shrine priestess of the lizardman.

The reason.

Because I had let them go, their hearts had been struck by my great affection.

And even when back at their nest they couldn't help but remember yesterday's event.

Then, a familiar voice resounded in the sky, they noticed that it was a song of courtship and when they dreamed of the fortune of becoming the wife of a dragon they left their nest.

On the way they met similar companions who aimed for me and that was how they finally arrived here together.

...I see, did fear become affection when flipped?

For a female to give birth to a strong descendant, creatures instinctively sought a strong man. Yesterday's event was enough to show them my power.

The awe of my power remained in them and when they listened to my song of courtship, did it changed into yearning of the same magnitude?

...Well, did the process even matter? What I should be thinking about now should be the ten females who had gathered before me.

It was because I must choose only one from among them.

I will not make the stupid thing called harem. Love couldn't be sold in pieces. A couple, it was simply because a couple was two together were one.

To live together, sing together, eat together and sleep together.

Until death do us part, it was an oath that kept both tied together. It meant that they became a couple.

Though it was bad for them, I will only choose one person in this place.

And the others who weren't fated to be with me, fate will someday tie them to someone somewhere.

Now, let's start without hesitation and anxiety, the selection ceremony for the bride of the dragon.

I paid attention to the chimera first.

The chimera matched with me who was a dragon, it took great pride in its stout body, the manly golden mane of a lion flowed down its back, the body of a goat...

Mane?

No, if my knowledge I had inherited was correct, then a lion with a mane would be male.

The face of the chimera was died in shame at my question, it answered with gestures and although the lion's head and the snake's tail were of a male, the essential part of the goat's body was female.

Fumu...

After I considered it for a while, I told her the words of the refusal. The chimera sadly went away deep into the forest.

To the back of the figure going away, my heart was pained with a stung.

Forgive me chimera. I had no confidence to love a creature as a mate that was 2/3 male.

From the bottom of my heart I prayed that someday she would find a chimera that was 2/3 female.

The next one my gaze set on was the cerberus. The cerberus came to my feet while breathing Hah Hah from her three mouths and then showed her belly with a flop, it was the same appearance of submission that was shown yesterday.

After I looked down on her sorry state, I solemnly told her the words of refusal. The three heads of the cerberus cried ““Kuun”” and she tottering left this place.

Cerberus this was not the end, however it was for both our sakes.

Marriage was neither control nor submission. The most important part in a happy married life was that the wife and husband had an equal relationship.

A sad howl could be heard from the black forest. Let's sincerely pray that she would someday find a male that can treat her as an equal.

Now, my eyes set on the harpy who couldn't raise a sound. Her body and wings trembled as she fearfully advanced in front of me.

After all, the instinctive fear of the creature known as dragon couldn't be erased. Her eyes gradually became wet.

However her cheeks became slightly red and it seemed that she was tinged with the heat of goodwill.

Her wings restlessly moved *PataPata* and her mouth opened *PakuPaku*.

Then having remembered the situation of herself not being able to speak, she dropped her shoulders and looked down.

(...Fumu, how about this?)

I reached out my hand to her, put my index finger on her head and tried to talk to her without using words.

If I did it this way, she and I should be able to connect to each other with the voice of the heart.

The harpy didn't hide the look of surprise and joy in the voice that reached me.

While being flustered she began to speak.

My big wings are very beautiful, she thought that I look very good when flying in the sky above the clouds, and my loud roar is very enviable.

It might have been because she had no experience in speaking the language so far. Her words were broken and didn't get many points across, but I was able to understand more than enough of what her heart tried to convey so eagerly.

This loveable being really shook and moved my heart, but I desperately restrained it and conveyed to her the words of refusal.

The face of the harpy girl looked as it would begin to burst into tears at any moment, she shook her head left and right as if she was expecting this outcome from the beginning and blew out a small sigh. And she immediately tried to fly away from this place.

I stopped her to wait a little bit.

I put a finger on her head again and conveyed my heart's words.

I think you are very desirable, it doesn't matter to me that you can't sing, however I have to say that for me you are 'too small'.

After hearing the word too small, she wonderingly gazed at my body and got startled when she suddenly understood it, then covered her face with her hands and wings. From the gaps I could see that her cheeks were red like fire.

Even though she was much bigger than a cicada, her physique was on the same level as a human. There was no way for her to accept my sex organ which was bigger than her thin body.

To the woman who crouched down ashamed, in the end I once again conveyed my words.

"It is impossible to marry you, but we should be able to become friends. If you envy

my wings you can ride on my back. On top of the clouds and if you wished for it I will take you close to the stratosphere."

The harpy girl for the first time here showed me a lovely smile such as a young apple and flew away to the eastern sky while repeatedly bowing.

The existence called friend, through my previous life and this life I was finally able to make one and I couldn't help letting my heart bounce.

The next one to come forward in front of me was the lamia.

The race called lamia, even by a dragon's standard it had a satisfactory big body. Moreover the body was flexible and a few 'Impossibilities' would work too.

It was an existence close to the dragon and originally I wanted to make her my bride by all means...

After all, the belly of the lamia swelled out.

Ah, don't misunderstand it, I didn't particular mind that the woman wasn't a virgin and I have obsession on it.

It didn't have anything to do with my past, but you should love every child as if they were your own.

But, however...

I tell the lamia. That "I can't make someone who doesn't love me my wife".

The lamia showed a startled expression at my words and apologized while deeply bowing her head.

And she patted and stroked her stomach protectively and turned her back to me.

Even if she lost weight, it was a dignified back figure. I raised my voice to the leaving lamia in the distance.

**"Miin min min min"**

(TL: Ah, I forgot to say, although food is sufficient I want to practice hunting a little. On the occasion let me deliver the prey to you tomorrow.)

The lamia looked back with a surprised expression and repeatedly bowed and apologized many times. And slowly returned to the spring in the north.

I then noticed.

Among the ten that gathered here, in fact only she had no feelings towards me.

Who she really loved was only one and that was only the child in her belly.

It was an extraordinary hardship for a pregnant lamia to live alone. In order to keep the child in her belly alive, she tried to entrust her body to me.

The meaning of those repeated apologies was just a confession that she wanted to be my wife because of her calculation.

I while seeing her departing figure thought that the child would be born in another several months.

It was her child, surely a strong child would be born.

Next to step forward before me was the lizardman shrine priestess.

I politely declined. Good-bye.

The lizardman shrine priestess clung to me, who immediately tried to look at the garuda next, and closely questioned why herself was useless.

Though there were various reasons, I first of all properly answered that the size would be different.

After she was a demi-human, so her size was a bit larger than a harpy or human. It won't be able to accept me.

However, she looked up at me and spoke in a dignified manner.

The reason.

Even if it is not my frontal attack, there should be plenty other ways.

It wasn't impossible to conceive a child with help of devising and ingenuity.

It was her long-cherished desire and didn't matter even if her body broke in the middle of the act.

Furthermore, she could be eaten without hesitation when she has become broken.

...Indeed, there seemed to be things that couldn't be understood at all even with the wisdom of a dragon.

I while being tormented by headaches, signaled the garuda with my eyes. I felt relieved when the garuda picked up the lizardman shrine priestess on both her shoulders and flew away to the western sky.

In the sky I still continued to hear the words of the lizardman shrine priestess. I thought shrine priestess were something more neat, but was that just the selfish fantasy of men?

Or, with the believer of the religion that believes in the dragon, everyone had changed like that?

I only slightly had doubt in the existence of myself that she worshipped.

Well, because the garuda had disappeared too, only four remained.

First of all is the siren, because she is a demi-human too, she is after all still too small for me. However she answered me with full confidence.

“It is alright, because our sexual intercourse is the same as fishes.”

I had no desire to take up after her. I didn't want such a sad married life.

The next one was the arachne who had the lower body of a spider and the upper body of a woman.

...Right there it was, when I was a cicada, my wings were nearly taken by the spider web and spiders were no good because of the trauma from that time.

It couldn't be done without lust.

So as not to hurt her I conveyed my apology with harmless words.

It was the pegasus that had come out subsequently. Although she was bigger than a demi-human, the male genital of a pegasus was at the same level as a horse and mine was of a dragon level.

It might somehow become unreasonable and she might not have the distorted preference like the lizardman on this matter.

I tell her to find a wonderful male from the horse race and the pegasus neighed highly only once and returned to the eastern sky.

...Well, although I had made various detours, to me actually, there seemed to have been only one choice from the beginning.

I stared at her, the only one left at this place.

She also stared at be bashfully.

***“Geeko geko geko geko”***

And it sang that.

## Part 4

***"Geeko geko geko geko"***

The only one remaining in this place was a huge pink colored frog.

Fumuu...

.....

.....

...well,... how did this happen?

I was looking for a mate and no compromise should be made,... but even if I felt like that, the world didn't go along with my ideal.

Compromise nothing, that was the instinct for preservation the species of all living beings. Without compromising on the species, the number of individuals decreased and it was only destined to perish.

I was this island's..., no, this world's only dragon.

In order for the dragon species to not die out, even if the other party would be the Aburazemi, I needed to endure it.

(Aburazemi = *Graptopsaltria nigrofuscata* = Large Brown Cicada)

If I thought carefully about it, she might not be too bad as a bride either.

First of all there is no problem with the size. The length was almost the same as me, I had a good feeling about her physique and it showed that she had a high ability to give birth to a child.

Although she wasn't a reptile, amphibians were a race relatively close to the point. There was a possibility that the child was born as a tadpole and it made me a bit anxious.

The pink skin was also quite feminine. The little wet skin made her body glossy and

that wasn't bad either.

Bright and big eyes were her most charming feature. Although I didn't like that they moved a little GyroGyro, but I thought I could allow it if I did my best.

And above all...

***"Miin min min min"***

***"Geeko geko geko geko"***

To my song of courtship she also answered with a song.

Her voice was low and strong like the tone of a cello.

I already completely liked her voice.

***"Miin min min min"***

***"Geeko geko geko geko"***

She, no should I call her Geeko? The sound that Geeko and I produced, we played the music impromptu.

***"Miin min min min"***

***"Geeko geko geko geko"***

Two different melodies, sometimes together, sometimes intersecting. It was like a Jazz session duet.

***"Miin min min min"***

***"Geeko geko geko geko"***

Rhythm & tone, up & down, forte & piano.

Our music resounded freely in the forest and on the whole island.

***"Miin min min min"***

## ***“Geeko geko geko geko”***

Did you know the first condition to have a happy marriage?

It was the matching hobbies.

Creatures grow old and beauty was the only symbol of youth, but that couldn't tie a partner for a life.

However, even if the appearance grew old, hobbies never grow old. That was the point of hobbies and with this Geeko and I were nothing less than a couple.

Possibly, for this day, for this song I was meant to meet Geeko.

## ***“Miin min min min”***

### ***“Geeko geko geko geko”***

We innocently kept singing. The joy of meeting in this world and it resounded in the whole world as we kept singing.

All creatures surely would be charmed by our music too.

## ***“Miin min min min min min...”***

### ***“Geeko geko geko geko geko geko...”***

The light of the sun changed from white to yellow and when sunset came Geeko and my music still had an end in sight.

She and I gazed at each other. Our shadows slowly grew longer.

Neither voice nor song were any longer necessary between us. Shadow and shadow were approaching.

And right before the two shadows overlapped, suddenly Yggdrasil appeared in my mind.

I had said that I would return before the end of the day, so I should return before the

sun set... And I was thinking about such a thing.  
Of course she was gentle, she would probably welcome me warmly even if I came back late...

When I thought of Yggdrasil I somehow felt a sting in my chest. Perhaps this was the guilt that I couldn't keep my promise to return by night.

Still, now the shadow of Geeko and me had overlapped and had become one.

And...

***Miin min min min min min..... Miin min min min min min.....***

I as 'promised' had returned to the base of Yggdrasil before the sun had set.

The sky broke at the terrific speed of me who returned home and Yggdrasil welcomed me although a bit surprised.

I clung to Yggdrasil and single-mindedly continued to cry.  
Like a lost child clinging to the foot of his mother who he finally found, clinging so that they would never separate again.

***Miin min min min Miin min min min***

Taiki didn't ask me anything. Therefore I also didn't say anything. The sun was setting too and the last purple light in sky went out.

"Ano... , did you have dinner yet? Sap, do you want to drink?"

She only asked that.  
I remembered that I hadn't eaten lunch let alone at dinner.

Needless to say my answer was affirmation. Her sap, it was happiness and tasted nostalgic.

I didn't intend to talk about what happened between Geeko and me.

However, so that nobody may taste the same experience as me, I intend to tell the truth only once.

For both cicada and frog, females don't sing.

# Chapter 4

## The dragon soon will go out and leave the nest

### Part 1

“Hey, it’s the sun”

From the azure sky golden light shined down on my face.

The light pierced the clouds like an arrow and without lingering in the wind it extended straight to the world.

A little while ago the dark blue of the night remained in the western sky, but now that it had reached here it was rolled from the bottom up.

Morning came to the world.

Yggdrasil and I were in the sky at an altitude of 5000 meters and we looked at the sea in the horizon.

From the water surface which had a metallic luster vapor slowly rose, became sea mist and drift away.

The bowl of the sky that was turned upside down was like the feathers of a male pheasant and created deep and beautiful gradations.

Mountains towering on the earth praise the sun that just appeared and their shadows kept extending endlessly.

And just the introduction of an orchestral music the world slowly woke up.

Everything was beautiful in the morning light, but there was something that shined especially dazzling and I could only admire it.

Taiki Yggdrasil.

Her bark was dyed pink by the gentle newborn light.

If you looked up you could see that her eternal green leaves wore a layer frost because of the high altitude and they shone like polished emerald.

Yggdrasil. She was the most beautiful in the world, the oldest and holiest world treasure.

“I..., love this world very much.”

Yggdrasil said to me in a transparent voice which was fresh like the morning air. My heart made a sound at her words.

I also tried convey my words to her [I like this world] but my voice broke off like a cirrus cloud and faded away and for some reason didn't become words.

(Fumu, this wasn't good...)

I put the 4th mark in front of my eyes.

With my sharp fingernail, the huge black turtle stone bedrock was like putting a knife in a ripe melon and I can easily carve marks.

Dragon's scratch marks were the proof of territory. Even the stupidest animals of this island won't overstep this territory.

Because invading the dragon's territory was equal to death.

“Really, I can't express my gratitude. Honorable great dragon.”

The lamia deeply lowered her head to me.

She from a while ago repeatedly bowed and rubbed her head against the earth.

This happened every time I applied a mark. I felt bad that she stood on ceremony.

I somehow persuaded her to finally raise her head.

The cheeks of the one watching me regained their color by the blood circulation and released a particular atmosphere unique to lamias.

Behind her was the blood and meat of the cattle that I had handed over to this mother and child.

This morning, I who filled my belly with Yggdrasil's sap as usual, went to the north

spring where the lamia lived. And as I promised the lamia yesterday, I ‘practiced hunting’ on the way.

At the bank of a large river an aged buffalo which got separated from its herd became they prey of my claws without much effort. I broke the neck of the bull in one breath so that it didn’t have to suffer after it lost consciousness by my roar.

From my previous life till now, it was the first time for me to have deprived the life of a living being, my mind as a dragon might be it because I was able to smoothly accept my first hunting.

My eyes didn’t show anything, but I prayed “I do not ask for forgiveness. Your life won’t be wasted” and I flew to the north spring with the buffalo in my claws.

I pretended to not notice that it ‘felt good’ when my claws were covered with blood...

I who got to the north spring gave the lamia a big surprise, but she with some caution she accepted it.

‘Cheap and cunning’ the lamia laughed when I told her that I caught the prey like I promised and she repeatedly gave me words of thanks after I she saw the bull.

Because it was a waste of time “Thanks aren’t needed so please eat, the meat will rot while thanking me” and I forcibly stopped the endless bowing by laying the ox beside her.

Though she hesitated momentarily, she thanked me once more and finally took the bull’s meat. And without rest the lamia continued to chew the meat.

Although she was a woman who always looked courageous but wasn’t she in a state near starvation? The bull lost its shape in a moment.

After eating half of the meat the lamia wiped the blood from her mouth she once again gave me words of gratitude and offered me the remaining half of the bull.

All the meat on the shoulder and back which were sinewy was gone, but the most delicious part, the stomach and buttocks were untouched.

“I’m not hungry so I don’t have to eat” I said to her but she answered that her stomach

was filled more than enough.

Because she was too obstinate “The remaining half, eat it for your child if you are no longer hungry” and when I said that she looked down slightly ashamed but she finally listened to me.

After all she was still reserved with me. And then she remaining meat went into her stomach.

Surely the child in her belly must be pleased too. The stomach of the lamia swelled out more than usual.

However, because she was so thin up till now but the child in the belly of the lamia might be actually still growing.

Perhaps it might be born in less than a month later. If the baby was born I would need to warn the foreign enemies even more.

For the child she will give birth to I decided to make my nest and dragon territory near the lamia.

If she was inside the dragon territory she could give birth to the child at ease and she should be able to raise it.

Thus I applied territory marks on four rocks that enclosed the nest of the lamia. I prayed that the mother and child could live calmly.

“Great dragon, you are mine and my child’s benefactor. Although I’m weak, is there anything I can do for you?”

The lamia in return for the territory and the bull wanted to express her gratitude.

...Fumu. I thought for a while.

Even if she said it was as gratitude I couldn’t think of a request for the lamia with this dragon’s body of mine.

The things a lamia couldn’t do but a dragon could were as countless as the stars, so there was nothing that a lamia could do that a dragon couldn’t do on his own.

Still the lamia claimed that she would do anything she could do.

Did eating the blood and meat cause her to regain her vigor, because her cheeks which were pale like earthenware a while ago were now dyed slightly red.

The lamia looked at me with wet eyes, modestly but surely she approached me.  
Why did I feel like that I was cornered in an awfully tight place.

I had to say something now.

While feeling a strange uneasiness on my skin I started to think hard.

The moment when the lamia tried to slowly extend her hand to me.

“Yes that’s it! A nest, I’m looking for a nest!”

...that I answered.

I answered after finally remembering it. It was so, I had been searching for a nest.

The hollow of Yggdrasil was splendid. If it was possible I wanted to live my whole life there. However that place was hers and it wasn’t good if stayed forever.  
I in the end promised that until I found a new nest and lived there as my temporary nest.

First I rolled into the house of a woman and only lived while sipping sweet honey without working, but wasn’t that like a gigolo?

It could be said that I was just born, but I was already a full-fledged dragon.  
A dragon shouldn’t be exposed to such a frivolous way of life. A new nest must be found as soon as possible.

However it wasn’t an easy task to find a nest for a dragon.

First of all the big body was a big problem. To live comfortably in a den it was necessary for the cave to be several times bigger than my body.

Moreover if the cave of rock wasn’t durable it might collapse if I turn over in my sleep.

Though it was natural but the place where other beings are already living was out of question.

I didn't intend to deprive other of their nest for myself.

Also it nest was required to be not too far from Yggdrasil. Even if some day the time came when I ate blood and meat like the lamia, I would still want to sip the sap of the taiki.

If it was possible I wanted it to be near the taiki at a distance of five minutes of flying.

A sunny place would be good because the cave easily gets damp, also it would be good if the entrance was to the south, as for the surroundings of the nest, it would be good if the wind often blew and it had an open area. It would be great if there was a water place near it.

Fumu... when I thought about it, the nest shouldn't be easily found. The lamia was silently waiting while I was lost in thoughts.

Here, I liked the rocky mountain and digging a hole with my claws was possible. Thought it would take time but Yggdrasil was gentle and until I finished digging my den she would surely let me live with her.

When I had such thoughts the modest of the lamia interrupted me.

"Ano... although the place has some story but it's the only one that comes to my mind."

It was in the middle of the straight line connection the nest of the lamia and Yggdrasil, there was a large plain on one side, but if she wasn't mistaken something was enshrined in the big rocky mountain.

At the foot of the mountain there was an entrance to the cave that was like a huge mouth.

The inside was larger than imagined and it had nearly the size of the hollow of Yggdrasil.

There was also a water place in the vicinity, the sun was also good. There wasn't a shadow that indicated that this place was inhabited. Why was this suitable place for a den not used by anybody? I thought that it was strange and asked the lamia.

"Actually this place was once the nest of a hydra."

So she said that a brutal hydra lived here 20 years ago.  
It randomly hunted the beings of the island, the hydra used poisonous breath and was feared by all creatures on the island, so she said that nobody dared to approach this rocky mountain.

And I heard that the hydra challenged the dragon without knowing its limit.  
The hydra was a dragon subspecies and it was an old truth that it was no match for a dragon. The hydra was tragically defeated and its body was devoured by the dragon.

After losing its master the cave had become unoccupied, even now after 20 years had passed the creatures around here recall the fear of the hydra, so It was passed down that nobody lived here.

Indeed it was certainly in the memory of the preceding dragon, the image of how the white dragon tore the nine heads like silk cloth was left behind.  
“...I could only think of this place. So... how about it?”

The lamia asked fearfully. The den originally belonging to a hydra might be inferior.

I took a look at the den again.

Though the hydra was extremely ugly, but it was ill-matched with this fine quality den.

It was convenient that no creatures approached due to the fear of the hydra. So the surrounding creatures wouldn't be stimulated in vain.

As for the location and size, it was a spending den so didn't think further about it.

I thanked the lamia for guiding me. She was honored that she could be useful and I laughed joyfully.

Thus I unexpectedly obtained a new den.

When I thought of leaving Yggdrasil's place and live here starting tomorrow, my heart for some reason becomes clouded with fog.

“So a new den was found. Above all a good one was found.”

At dinner (sap) I told Yggdrasil about the new den I found.

She was pleased that I found a den by myself. And she celebrated with me.

“...you’re moving already... , although it was short it was enjoyable.”

She continued. It wasn’t my delusion, but I could hear a bit of disappointment and loneliness in her voice.

I wonder why? My heart was like a dustcloth which was squeezed tightly.

I couldn’t understand the true nature of this pain, but my throat was blocked and I couldn’t breathe.

Because I couldn’t breathe I tried to spit out the air by force and some words came out of my mouth.

“No, not yet! I’m not moving yet. The important things aren’t enough yet!”

“Important things... what’s that?”

Yggdrasil asked me.

“The important things aren’t enough’ though these words left my mouth, but it was a coherent story.

A den must be completed or else I couldn’t move yet.

Really, what wasn’t enough?

Though I had neither complaint about the location nor the size, the den was ideal, but there were still insufficient things. There should be necessary things.

I thought. The things necessary for a den, what on earth was necessary for one?

What was done in a den? What do I need in a den?

In here what did the den not have...?

“...Yes that’s it! The floor! A bed was necessary!”

A simple answer left my mouth. The den didn’t have a bed.

A small bark which became loose fell in the hollow of Yggdrasil, it was a natural bed with moderate softness and heat retention, but the new den was made of cold rock.

Though it wasn't impossible for a dragon to sleep in a cold place with its hard rock skin either, but there should be a comfortable bed. Because the calm sleep leads to a rich life.

It was so. A bed was necessary. Let's slowly build an ideal bed starting tomorrow.  
Even Yggdrasil,

"Yes, that's right. It is sufficient that there was a soft bed to be able to sleep. Fufufu, then until the bed is completed treat me well from tomorrow on too. Roommate-san.

The voice of such a Yggdrasil, though it might be my delusion too, but I could hear that it bounced brightly.

When I heard her bright voice my heart becomes bright like a blooming flower.

I talked to Yggdrasil about today's events and afterwards I happily closed my eyes in this soft and warm hollow.

## Part 2

The morning of the following day had gray clouds totally blocking the sky. Though it didn't rain, the air was damp with moisture.

I told Yggdrasil [I'm leaving] and decided to look for materials for my bed in the afternoon, but first I decided to leave for the hometown of the Harpy.

From the World Tree, the hometown of the Harpy was located in the mountainous region to the south. The fountain to the north of the World Tree was home to the Lamia.

I had originally intended to bring food to the Lamia every morning, but the snake-like Lamia had explained her digestion method worked differently. She said that she didn't have to eat anything for two weeks after consuming that amount.

[Then I'll come again in one week] I promised, she had a surprised expression and deeply lowered her head.

Well, after I fulfilled the promise I made with the Lamia, I decided to make good on another promise. I arrived at the hometown of the Harpy.

The Harpy was a race which lived in a group, with villages forming a small community.

When I visited the village without any announcement, the Harpies screamed in panic.

I was careless. Harpies were the previous dragon's favorite food.

It was no surprise that the Harpies were either running away and trying to escape, or trembling in fear without moving. I lowered my head and explained I only came to meet a friend.

I asked the Harpy closest to me [Where is the Harpy girl that can't sing?] and while trembling *GakuGaku* she pointed in a direction away from the village.

I thanked her and flew in the direction her trembling finger had pointed.

I heard sighs of relief from the Harpies behind me.

About four kilometers away from the Harpy's hometown I found a little hut made of cloth and wood.

It was in the shadow of the mountain, the surrounding area had become a small wetlands. This was a place where a Harpy would willingly live, nothing was here except the hut.

I felt signs of life inside the hut and decided to look for an entrance.

A joint of cloth seemed to be the entrance, but there was no way to knock on the 'door' and there wasn't a doorbell either.

I decided to call out to the Harpy girl.

**"Miin min min min."**

(TL: Harpy, are you there? I'm the dragon.)

As soon as I spoke out I heard fluttering noises from the house. After some rattling, rolling, and what sounded like things falling onto the floor, my friend timidly showed her face from the behind the cloth.

Water was dripping from her azure blue hair. It seemed like she was in the middle of wiping her body.

After she found me she opened her mouth *PakuPaku* like usual.

She couldn't say anything, however, she looked surprised.

When I put my finger on her head like before, I exchanged words with her.

"(Didn't I promise you? That I would take you over the clouds? Do you want to go the sky and play now?)"

After opening her eyes wide for a moment, her face broke into a smile like a small apple.

"(Yes~)"

She answered cheerfully.

She asked me if I could wait for ten minutes because she had to get ready. I answered of course and like a turtle she withdrew her head into the hut.

I heard noises from the hut again.

Ten minutes passed... and another ten... and after ten more the Harpy came out of the hut. She apologized for taking so long, but there wasn't any reason to be sorry since I came unannounced. As I apologized she frantically moved her head, hands, and wings side to side.

The Harpy girl was wearing a thin orange tunic.

It was a light shade which suited her azure hair well. Although they looked old they were clean, and you could see that they have been handled carefully.

"It suits you very well" I told her. The harpy girl, appearing bashful, answered joyfully that she had gotten it from her mother.

Though, those clothes were a little too thin to be flying over the clouds with... but seeing her smile, I thought it would be bad to pour cold words of reality onto her.

Besides, the cold didn't matter. The cold air and wind in the sky could be prevented with my inexhaustible magical power.

"(So, should we go? Hold on tight.)"

When I confirmed that the harpy was clinging tightly to the back of my neck, I flew towards the cloudy sky.

The earth faded away in an instant and the clouds steadily approached.

"(Amazing! Amazing! Fast! High!)"

The thoughts of the voiceless harpy were transmitted.

There was no space for lies between us, who were talking through ideas and thoughts. The Harpy who was riding on my back was enjoying this from the bottom of her heart.

The Harpy race had feathers that shone a beautifully pure white. The wings, however, were too small for their body and couldn't keep them in the sky for long.

Moreover, they didn't have techniques which combined magical power and flying like me.

It would be the first time she has looked down at the earth from such a height.

As I flew higher, I punched through the wall of gray clouds that extended across the sky without hesitating.

The Harpy clung to my neck with even more force.

As we exited the thick layer of clouds, the sky changed radically and was clear as far as the eye could see.

We couldn't see the ground, only a vast sea of clouds below us. The sun shone brightly above us, even the gray clouds were dyed pure white.

“(It’s so sunny above the clouds...)”

The Harpy became agape just from the sight.

I wanted to play a little prank, so I jumped into the sea of clouds again.

From the Harpy “(Kiyaaa)” was transmitted. And after leaving the clouds again we began to laugh a lot.

Though the harpy wasn’t able to make a sound I laughed for her too.

What a pleasant thing it was to play with a friend, and to laugh with a friend

After that, we enjoyed swimming through the sky for about 2-3 hours.

As the sun began to set, we returned to the Harpy's home. She was still clinging to my neck and excitedly repeating “(It was fun!)”. Hearing this from her docile heart, it seems it was a good idea to have invited her.

As I was bidding her farewell, she invited me for lunch. It seems to be a soup made of mountain herbs.

She, who couldn't lure prey with her song, seemed to entirely live on nuts and edible wild plants.

Though I was interested in the offer for lunch since I hadn't eaten anything, I refused her offer firmly.

Even a full pot of soup for her wouldn't even amount to a spoonful for me. I couldn't take her precious food.

I declined and said that I soon had to go look for materials for my bed.

"(Bed?)"

She asked me while still clinging to my neck.

...Fumu. She, who lived by eating nuts and wild plants from the mountain, might know materials which were just right for a bed.

"(I'm making a new nest now. Do you know of anything good?)"

The Harpy girl thought for a while.

"(Well, that might be the perfect bed for a dragon!)"

She answered.

In a red canyon some distance away from the Harpy village, we arrived at a rift that had been created by a crack in the ground. The sun only barely reached down here.

I moved through the valley until I found a cave, and upon travelling deep into it I finally arrived at a large, open cavern.

In the center, a huge umbrella shape object was enshrined.

"...It can't be, a big monkey stool?"

The Harpy gave affirmation to my question while clinging to my neck.

This kind of mushroom was called a monkey stool. It wasn't poisonous but rather edible, unfortunately it had neither taste nor nourishment.

It was useful for the people of the island when cut down and used for fire.

It could grow to the size of a cow, but the one in front of me was bigger than a cow and even larger than myself.

"How long has it lived here...?"

Though I was talking to myself, the Harpy answered "(I don't know)" cordially.

The big monkey stool may have withered a long time ago, and in spite of this place receiving little to no sunlight it was completely dry.

Perhaps it had lived in this valley for hundreds of years where nobody found it.

I tried to lift it with both my hands. Without resistance, the big monkey stool came off from the rock and was surprisingly light.

I decided to lay down on it as an experiment. It not only easily supported by body, but it also had some flexibility and bounciness to it. I couldn't help but raise my voice in admiration. There couldn't be a better object than this.

I wondered how many days I was going to have to wander this island for materials to make a big enough bed for me. I never imagined I would be manage to get the best bed in a single day.

"It's a splendid bed. Thank you, Harpy."

I said my gratitude to the Harpy.

The harpy moved her mouth *PakuPaku* and showed me the best smile today.

"The big monkey stool is bigger than you? You really managed to find an unusual thing."

After dinner I talked to Yggdrasil about today's events, as usual. Yggdrasil was surprised and made comments while happily listening to my story.

It had only been four days since I met Yggdrasil for the first time. Even so, the time I spent with her was important and calming to me.

After dinner as usual I talked to Yggdrasil about today's events.

Yggdrasil was surprised and made comments and happily listened to my story.

It had been only four days since I met Yggdrasil for the first time. However for me, the time with her was important and calming.

"It's really pleasant to hear that you found a bed. The big monkey stool might be happy too. Even though it had withered it could be useful to someone, and I think that is wonderful."

Even if you died you could be helpful for someone... it certainly was a wonderful thing. The big monkey stool had already been carried to the new nest and tomorrow I would come visit Yggdrasil again.

Not just Yggdrasil, the big monkey stool would surely be pleased too.

From the viewpoint of the gentle Yggdrasil, you could tell that the world was full of kindness.

If I hadn't met her, my world may not have been as bright.

"...However, the bed was found fairly quickly. Will you move to your new nest tomorrow?"

Yggdrasil suddenly asked.

She's right, having found my bed, wasn't my nest completed?

If I began to live alone, my warm times with Yggdrasil would come to an end today.

No, the nest couldn't be completed yet. My thoughts once again spun round and round.

There had to be something. Something that was still missing.

Something... something... what was needed for a nest? Besides a bed...

Bed (nedoko/寝床)... bed (nedoko/ねどこ)... doko... doko... doko... dore... doa (どあ)  
... door (doa/ ドア)... door (tobira/ とびら)..... door (tobira/扉)!

(TLN: I kept it in Japanese because it's hard to follow it with translation)

"Yes that's it, a door! A door is necessary!"

The truth dawned on me and I shouted.

“...Erm, door, was it?”

Umu, I affirm with a nod.

The nest of a dragon was filled with treasures.

I myself wasn't interested in treasure and I didn't intend to gather any either, but I couldn't waste the treasures the previous dragon had collected.

Wealth caused fighting. So that other creatures wouldn't steal any and stand out, it's necessary to move the treasures to my new nest. But if there was no door wouldn't it be impossible for me to go out and keep the treasure safe?

So I told her. Umu, it really was a perfect theory.

“Despite the absence of a door, creatures won't feel like approaching the den of a dragon... however, there's no such thing as excessive precaution!”

Yggdrasil also agreed.

“Fufufu, then, until the door is completed, I once again thank you in advance. Roommate-san.”

And until I moved to my new nest I would be in her care.

Why was I so uneasy about leaving this place?

I decided to lie in the hollow of the taiki and sleep for today.

Even without blood running through her veins, her body was very warm.

## Part 3

As I slept, entrusting my back to Yggdrasil, I had a mysterious dream.

In the dream, I was a cicada again.

I had become a cicada who flew in the sky with its tiny wings, and was diligently looking for the figure of Yggdrasil.

I searched, searched, and searched, but Yggdrasil couldn't be found.

Where on earth had you disappeared to?

I hadn't finished building the nest yet.

I still hadn't conveyed what I wanted to tell you.

Inside the dream, the past and present mixed, and a sweet smell drifted from somewhere.

AH! That's right! Her sap!

I went to the source of the smell and began to suck the sap without thinking anything.

I sucked...

Strange!

I was abruptly awoken from my nightmare due to the discomfort that remained in my mouth.

The first thing I saw upon waking up was a gecko-like creature stuck to the wall of the hollow. I could see a tail sticking out of the miko clothes in my mouth, she looks like a lizardman.

**"Mimiinn?!"**

(TL: Nuooooo!?)

Because of my great surprise I reflexively released a dragon roar.

After I released it, I immediately paled.

My roar had terrifying power. Ignoring the lizardman miko who was bathed in the roar at close range, would Yggdrasil be alright?!

“Is something wrong?!”

Yggdrasil seemed to have shut her consciousness. Though sleep was unnecessary for her who was a tree, she seemed to occasionally close her mind off.

I asked her whether she was injured or not. Fortunately, Yggdrasil wasn't wounded. The lizardman who had fainted lied on the ground, and other than her slightly damaged miko clothes, her body didn't seem to have any serious injury.

I breathed out in relief.

Several days ago, a rocky mountain was blown off by my roar, but maybe because it was a sudden roar I didn't use any magic power.

At any rate, I seemed to have avoided the worst situation and felt relieved.

While disregarding the fainted lizardman, I explained to Yggdrasil what had happened.

After Yggdrasil heard my explanation.

“It seems... a door is necessary after all...”

She said.

The lizardman finally woke up after sunrise.

What was her intention last night? I thoroughly questioned her and she answered with a cool face.

Her reason?

While strolling at night, she happened to wander into our vicinity.

And then she suddenly had the urge to see my sleeping face.

So she invaded quietly, so as to not wake me up, because it was midnight.

When she saw that I was having a nightmare, she tried to put her tail which was coated in Yggdrasil's sap into my mouth.

...Indeed. I don't get it.

It seems a strong door isn't needed here.

"Isn't there a reason for one...?"

I carelessly spoke my thoughts, though the lizardman didn't understand my muttering.

I explained that I intended to make a big gate at the entrance to my new nest.

She listened to me and replied:

"In that case, please leave it to me! I'm known as the best craftsman on this island!"

"Isn't it undesirable for a dragon like yourself to not have a proper door?"

"...Building a dragon's door... I shall not pass up the chance."

When the sun had risen a considerable amount, the lizardman brought two giants to my nest. The giants were named Fazor and Fafner, and both were nearly as large as I was. They had a large amount of wood in each tanned hand, nearly twice their size.

"We've arrived with the door. It was easy work."

"Dragon... dragon-sama, the gate, we will make it how you want it."

The way the two giants worked was spectacular.

The huge hammer was easily brandished.

It was the work of a genius craftsman who combined dynamics and delicacy.

The giants occasionally exchange some short words, and they continued working

together as if two were one being.

The door was completed at an extremely quick pace. I admired the way they worked.

Were they craftsmen from a splendid race?

Their hands had formed rough calluses, showing their way of life.

I opened my hands.

There doesn't exist anything that my nails couldn't tear, however could my nails produce something like them?

Compared to their hands which created things, my hands broke things.

I wanted to make something with my hands someday.

Though, I wasn't interested in gold or silver treasures, but if it was something I made by myself it would become the treasure of a lifetime.

I thanked the lizardman for introducing them.

I frankly spoke my mind. I hadn't known that it was such a splendid thing to create.

"I didn't do anything. If you want to say your gratitude, then by all means say it to those two."

The lizardman was ashamed that I thanked her. While blushing, she looked in the direction of the two giants.

It wasn't necessary to say. I waited for the two to take a break and then expressed my words of respect and gratitude to them.

"You don't have to thank us, this is our job."

I got a pleasant answer from the craftsman.

"Should I pay for your work with treasures?" I asked that, but the two giants answered that it was unnecessary.

"It was the request of lizardman-sama. Receiving your gratitude is enough of a reward."

"Mimi, to the miko, I ,I'm indebted, this, this is repaying the favor"

According to them it was more than ten years ago, the two giants seemed to have cause a big fight that became a scramble for life over a golden ring.

And the one who stopped the fight at the risk of her own life was none other than the lizardman miko.

At that time the miko was just a lizardman child, but she had superior perception as one and she could perceive that a spell of death was attached to the ring, and at the moment the two giants took their eyes off the ring, she threw the golden ring into the sea.

As soon as the ring disappeared in the sea, the two giants regained their sanity and stopped fighting.

Afterwards, the lizardman miko who solved the curse while risking her own life became their benefactor, and as the person who saved the lives of the brothers they came to respect her deeply.

After hearing their story, I was ashamed to have treated her so unkindly up till now.

Though her actions and behavior were certainly strange, wasn't her heart filled with strong courage that shone, dignified like a diamond?

I looked at the miko, and I sat down as I turned towards her. I wanted to watch the scene unfolding in front of me.

As soon as the two giants began to tell the anecdote to the miko, she felt embarrassed and was unable to stay, so she travelled here. Although, her usual actions are very shameful when I think about it...

Really, various sides of a person are shown when looked from a different angle. I was reminded that I had known only one side of her.

In the future I wanted to know her other sides.

I prayed that we could become at least good friends.

After the two giants finished their break they began to work again. The gate had almost taken shape and only some finishing touches were left.

I mustn't obstruct them, so I looked at them from a short distance away.

Finally the two checked the condition of the opening and shutting of the gate and nodded. The two craftsmen seemed to be satisfied with their work.

The double doors shut without a gap. There was also a small black door at the bottom of the right door without hindering the mechanisms. The black door was elaborately camouflaged at the joints of the plate and was like a hidden door.

...Fumu? A black door?

What is this small door? It was too small for me to pass through, so there didn't seem to be any meaning for it.

"Ahh, this? So that the miko could sneak in anytime I had made a hidden door."

"It, it's not good ani, thi, this should be secret from dragon-sama."

Umu, I understood it well. Seal it right now.

The door was a fatal defect for crime prevention and by the end of the day the entrance was blocked by a giant door.

Because the lizardman tried to play tricks on the door when she saw a chance, I asked the garuda who happened to pass by to carry her back to her village.

And another day is going to end.

The dusk sun shone gold, and the shadow of the two giants disappeared into the distance.

I had expressed my sincere praise for their work once again to the two.

While the brothers were drenched in a large amount of sweat they responded with pleasant laughter.

Fazor and Fafner disappeared in the direction where the sun sank to. There were only a few giants and I sincerely wished that they could live peacefully.

After seeing the two leave, I flew to the world tree.

There were a lot of travel stories today. With the two giants, the story of the miko, and also that I wanted to make something with my own hands.

“She would be surely happy to hear my stories,” I thought. I became impatient.

...Fumu? I seemed to have forgotten something important?

I shouldn't be anxious, and I shouldn't show my disgraceful behavior a third time.

After double checking the giant's work, I properly arranged my thoughts. I should tell her in a few words.

I returned to Yggdrasil and in a dignified manner told her this.

“Finally I will make a restroom.”

## Part 4

The next morning after I woke up I headed straight for my new nest.

For these several days I was fortunate whenever I met someone.

Until now I had added various things to the nest and it would be completed when I made a restroom. The thing I needed the most was not to rely on the dragon's wisdom anymore.

I shouldn't consult anyone this time and I should proceed to work alone I thought.

Well, it was difficult to make a restroom beside the nest now.

When I said difficult I meant Waterworks and drainage, because it was necessary to make two kinds of roads for the water. Just digging a hole lacked creativity.

To make a comfortable house you must not regret going through trouble. Waterworks will also be used for drinking and washing the body.

The first problem is how to secure clean water.

Though I could get water from the nearby river, but if too much water was drawn it might influence the ecosystems of creatures that live in the river.

And when river gets flooded during the rainy season the nest might be submerged.

So digging for underground water would be the best choice, but how should I dig up underground water...?

When I thought about such things I suddenly felt a pair of eyes on me. From inside a far-off rock shade somebody seemed to be watching me in secret.

***"Miinminmin" (TL: The person there. Though I don't know who it is, do you need anything from me?)***

The person hidden behind the rock reacted to my voice with Bikuri\*. And after a bit the figure of the person finally emerged.

*"Gekoo..."*

It cried.

In front of the nest, Geeko and I were keeping a delicate distance while sitting face to face.

Heavy air hung between us. It was choking as if lead was mixed with the air.

I didn't know what to say to Geeko and Geeko also couldn't find words to say to me.

It was just, we could just continue to remain silent.

It couldn't manage it and our eyes naturally began to wander.

Geeko had gotten much thinner than the last time. The skin was dried and lost its gleam which was peculiar to amphibians.

Could it be that it hadn't eaten anything since that day? While I filled my stomach with Yggdrasil's sap everyday...

This miserable body was shameful. On that day, how much had I hurt Geeko?

That time when I had noticed the male signs on Geeko's body, I had run away from that place while yelling. I had left without saying anything to Geeko.

Wasn't that just a mean insult?

For a living being the mental character might not correspond to the physical sex. The disagreement between soul and body was a hopeless disease in that person.

I who had the soul of a cicada and the body of a dragon, why did I not try to understand Geeko's suffering?

I couldn't make Geeko my wife.

However, as someone with the same kind of problem we could have become friends.

I reflected on myself, reflected and thought what I should do now.

And I noticed that I didn't have to think about it. Because there was only one thing I could do for Geeko.

### ***"Miinminminmin"***

I will sing. A song of affection and friendship.

I didn't need words. Sound, poetry, melody because it should be able to connect our friendship.

### ***"Geekogekogekogeko..."***

Gecko also returned a song.

However it wasn't a low powerful sound like that time, but it sounded somewhat timidly. Gecko's song completely lacked confidence and power.

I was ashamed because Gecko felt so miserable.

Though ashamed but I told my heart that I shouldn't apologize.

What should I say if I apologized? I didn't think that you were male?  
It was ridiculous, male and female. Was there any meaning to it?

Sex had nothing to do with a true friend.

We will be friends from now on. We will become friends.

What's wrong friend? Was your song like this?

Join my song Gecko! There is no need to hold back between friends.

### ***"Miinminminmin!"***

I played a melody of provocation, it was boring just to match the music, it sometimes needed to repulse and then a new music is born.

Now Gecko what will you do? I can even sing louder.

**“Geekogekogekogeko!”**

Geeko understood my intention and answered with a powerful song.

Yes that's it! This is music friend! Then how about this melody?

**“Miinminminmin!”**

**“Geekogekogekogeko!”**

To my song Geeko answered with a different song.

A smile naturally appears on my mouth.

After all Geeko is genuine. It adhered to my sound, even surpassed it, the friend in front of me, no, because he was powerful enemy, the only one.

**“Miinminminmin”**

**“Geekogekogekogeko”**

Will today's music be heavy metal? Didn't u hear the genuine soul between the shouts?

**“Miinminminmin”**

**“Geekogekogekogeko”**

Geeko and my song echoed all over the island. Nobody could stop the cry of our souls.

**“Miinminminmin”**

**“Geekogekogekogeko”**

Singing was enjoyable, however singing with someone was even more pleasant.

I'm glad that I found a friend, but I'm even gladder to have reconciled with a friend.

**“Miinminminmin...”**

**“Geekogekogekogeko...”**

Singing, singing, singing...

And I realized that we were lying on the ground laughing aloud.

The sky was blue and pure white clouds were blown by the wind.

The rays from the summer sun rained down like feathers.

That is a woman, that is a man, that is a cicada, that is a dragon, such things weren't that small.

The ground we laid on was warm. We shook hands while we got up.

The handshake of reconciliation was very warm.

Shall we sing a last song? When I proposed it Geeko,

**"GEEKO!"**

And nodded powerfully.

After that we chatted without consideration.

Now when I spoke about making a restroom Geeko came forward and wanted to help me.

Though I intended to make the restroom by myself, but I didn't want to waste the goodwill of my friend. Then I said "I leave it to you" and Geeko puffed out his chest before he left.

Gecko put his ear on the ground around the nest as if he was searching for something. I had nothing to do and so that I didn't obstruct him I concealed my breath and only watched.

Gecko halted at a certain place after repeating it for countless times.

Then from Gecko's mouth, no... his tongue? I understood that he was gathering magical power.

The tip of Geeko's tongue began to shine. And then...

**"GEEEKOOOOOO!!"**

Geeko's tongue expanded like a drill with a roar.

The red tongue broke through the bedrock with drilling sounds.

*GyuruGyruru* and it kept expanding, how long was it now, I couldn't imagine it.

After a while Geeko smiled from ear to ear and at last his tongue rolled up and began to return.

At the same time the tongue returned inside his mouth, a large quantity of water overflowed from the ground.

Disregarding me who was surprised, Geeko moved slightly away from that place and scooped out the ground with his tongue they same way again.

The water overflowing from the first hole drifted to the second hole.

When I asked what he had done he answered that the first hole connected with the water vein in the ground.

And the second hole was a drainage which stretched about a kilometer away to the river.

I could do nothing but be surprised by Geeko's words.

With only that Geeko had created waterworks and drainage for the nest.

If dug up the earth afterwards I could easily make a restroom and a bath.

I praised Geeko. To have such a special ability as well a singing.

Even I could scoop out the earth with my fingernail but I couldn't create such a long hole.

Geeko seemed ticklish and smiled at my compliment.

"I'm proud of my digging"

He answered.

Geeko told me that he would always help if I needed to dig some holes and then left for his own nest. I was a really lucky person to have a friend like Geeko.

Afterwards I continued working alone.

The drainage was firmly connected to the waterworks in the ditch and I had dug three small holes between that.

A small hole was for drinking. The second bigger hole was to bathe. And the third medium hole was for excretion.

Because Geeko had carried out the hardest part it only took me two hours to complete it.

Compared to the splendid gate that the giants had built it was nothing worth complimenting but I would give it a passing point.

Thus I made my nest on the fourth day.

I was happy, I learned a lot, the number of friends increased, though I was very much condensed into four days but my nest was finally completed.

## Part 5

“Fufufufu, welcome back roommate-san. It seems like you had a very entertaining day.”

Yggdrasil said so when I returned to her place. Umu, it certainly was a fun day, but why...

“The song from the two of us was very successful.”

Indeed, because our song would have surely resounded all over the island, so there would be no reason why Yggdrasil wouldn't have heard it. Then first of all let's talk about the reconciliation with Geeko.

Talking with Yggdrasil was especially fun today.

It wasn't only about today's events, it was about the four days and I talked about what I felt and thought.

These four days, the lamia, the harpy, the lizardman miko, the two giants and Geeko. I was helped by everyone and was able to build a splendid nest.

If I did it alone, even if it took many years in comparison but still I wouldn't be able to make such a splendid nest.

I'm the strongest dragon in this world.

However, that didn't mean I knew the land as good as the lamia or where to gather mountain herbs like the harpy either.

I didn't have the many acquaintances like the lizardman miko and I couldn't make something skillfully like Fasolt and Fafner.

I wasn't possible for me to dig a hole as long a Geeko either, besides I didn't have branches a leaves full of affection like Yggdrasil which could embrace everybody.

I'm the strongest dragon. However my friends might be stronger than me.

After Yggdrasil chimed in on my words one by one it was finally time and I answered.

“Everybody was born with various roles. There is no living being that could do everything alone. There everybody should live hand in hand.”

I took Yggdrasil’s word to heart.

Yggdrasil and I will be no longer in touch.

The nest was already finished. There were no further necessary things and I couldn’t enlarge it.

It was time to become independent.

Thankful for everyday I asked Yggdrasil.

“Is there something that I can do for you?”

As I got something from everyone, wasn’t there something that I could do for her in return?

After Yggdrasil thought for a while,

“Then.....”

I answered to her wish which was somewhat of a let-down with “Certainly”.

I must go to sleep early today.

The last time sleeping here I had the illusion that this place was a bit too large.

“Hey, it’s the sun.”

Yggdrasil said to me with a crystal clear voice like the fresh morning air.

Her wish was a small one; it was to see the morning sun together.

It was nothing compared to the kindness that I received. I didn’t think that I could return her kindness with such a thing.

However I understand from the feelings that were transmitted that she was really pleased.

“I love this world.”

My heart skipped a beat when she said “Love”.

I tried to answer with “I also love this world” but for some reason I couldn’t say those words and my voice disappeared like a cirrus cloud.

I just silently watched her watching the world.

The changing color of the sky showed that the end of the morning glow was imminent.

Time never stops. The same morning never comes again.

I snuggled closely to her while silently waiting for the end to come.

And then I would leave the nest.

And in not even half an hour the clear sky was steeped into a ruthless blue.

The sun was glistening and white. It was no longer the morning sun.

“Did you like it?”

I thought about it but I couldn’t find and answer and I grew more impatient while not finding and answer so I just answered by nodding.

Still Yggdrasil said in a soft joyful voice.

“It’s something I like and knowing that you also like it makes me happy.”

I wanted to answer something but I couldn’t let out any word as if something was pressing on my chest.

Even with the dragon’s telepathy I couldn’t convey my thoughts because in my head I didn’t know what to say.

“Roommate-san.”

She called me like she always did.

“I’m really glad that I met you, these six days we spent together were really fun.”

I silently listened to her words.

“Greeting me when waking up in the morning, drinking my sap with great relish, chatting about various things at night and saying good night when going to sleep. And today seeing the morning sun together...”

She paused for a bit there,

“If... , if we no longer meet each other anymore, could you not forget me?”

She said such with a voice that seemed to disappear.

“Yggdrasil!”

I shouted without realizing it. Yggdrasil seemed to be surprised at my sudden voice but answered “Yes” and waited for the continuation of my words.

I should say something to her now but what should I say now?

While in front of Yggdrasil I showed this unseemly behavior several times already but today was the first time for my mind to be this confused.

What did I want to tell her I didn’t understand it myself.

However, if I didn’t say something to her now I felt like she would disappear in the distance but I didn’t know the source of this uneasiness.

“Yggdrasil, I...”

Hateful words don’t block my tongue!

What do I feel right now? What do I want to tell her?

“I, you...”

At last the voice from my heart finally begin to become words.

I was like words were like water drops squeezed out from a wet dust cloth.

“You...”

However I immediately lost whatever I was going to say.

“You,... very”

Very, very what? What was I going to tell her?

I didn't know, it kept spinning around in my head but I din understand it.

“V... ery, very...”

“Very?”

She gently urged me to continue who kept repeating very. Shamefully I didn't know the continuation of the words.

“Very, very...”

Eei! My mouth didn't listen to what I say even as if it was wrested from me.

“V... ery, ver... y”

My mouth it kept saying those words!

I beg of you! What are the words that are hidden in my heart!

The words that I should convey to Yggdrasil!

“V,v, very... to, totem,... toto, tote, to, I need a totem pole!”(TLN: *totemo = very*)

Unexpected words came from my mouth.

“Totem pole... was it?”

What was I thinking about, I realized that I said the name of the indigenous people of

folk art living who lived on the continent in the direction of the setting sun.

Yggdrasil thought a while about my words which even I didn't understand,

"Ah, indeed! A new house needs a guardian deity? Fufufu roommate-san is religious."

So, it was interpreted.

"I'm sorry. I was certainly misled into thinking that the nest of roommate-san was completed. That's right, because it's the place where the hydra lived before a charm against evil is necessary."

Yggdrasil said so and consented as if it was natural. And finally,

"Then, until the totem pole is made let's stay together roommate-san..... Fufufun, please show it to me when it's completed."

So she said.

From this day on I will make a totem pole (masterpiece).

I looked up at the sun which had risen fairly usual unchanging day begins again. So I thought.



This was a world inhabited by humans. This story goes back several days in time.

From the island where the dragon lived Yggdrasil and the dragon were looking in the direction of the morning sun where 1000 km away on the continent to the east the where the capital of the holy king lied.

In the center of the capital with a population of hundreds of thousand people there stood a huge cathedral towering over the town.

Inside the cathedral which was full with devout pilgrims during the day was deadly quiet like the bottom of the sea during the night.

In this darkness three figures could be seen from the flickering light of candles.

One was a man wearing a red vestment. He wore clothes called dalmatic and from the embroidery which was decorated with gold it could be seen that he was a fairly high ranked cleric.

Another man was kneeling in front of the man wearing the red vestment. He wore a black robe which covered his whole body and his pale white face floated like a mask inside the pitch black darkness.

A girl was waiting beside the man.

Her age barely exceeded ten years and the thin right arm of the girl was covered in a huge gray object which was covered in complex designs.

The huge gray thing was unbalanced for the girl and according to people she didn't wear it but it seemed to "grow" from the girl.

"Your majesty, we have confirmation from the miko of foresight. A new dragon was born this morning."

(TN: *miko of foresight as in looking at distant places.*)

The kneeling man wearing the black robe spoke in a dark hoarse voice.

"I see, it's according to the prophecy of the miko of clairvoyance..."

(TN: *miko of clairvoyance as in looking into the future, different from the miko above*)

The man called his majesty said with a heavy sigh.

The man wearing the black robe continued with his words while ignoring the sigh.

"The preparations are complete, we can depart from the holy city tomorrow."

"Is that so, is all favorable?"

The man wearing the black robe bowed his head deep and answered with an affirmative and took a glance at the girl to the side.

"It is certainly a true dragon but it is just a newborn bay. Kore will accomplish the killing of the dragon without fail."

"Kore" was the name the girl which stood there like a statue without showing any

reaction.

Nothing was reflected in her grey eyes but something seemed to shine dully on her right hand.

“In order to save the world tree it is necessary to sacrifice such a girl...”

The man wearing the vestment could only bestow his blessings the girl as her sole compensation.

“Holy tree Yggdrasil grant your blessing and divine protection onto your pure and loyal soldier.”

# Chapter 5

## Someone wants to fight the dragon

### Part 1

*Humans don't surrender. When they gain victory at their task they do it magnificently (Eiji Sawamura)*

"A tree with straight wood grains and annual rings that are easy to break."

"A, a, after it dries, i, i, it won't be easy to carve."  
*(TLN: for those who forgot one of them stutters)*

...Indeed, it was necessary to know the tree before I could start. After all what's called a sculpture was profound.

The me right now has learned the ABC of sculpting from Fafner and Fasolt.

The other day I had declared that I would make a totem pole in front of Yggdrasil and decided to start my work the following day.

However, not to mention the time that I was a cicada even inside the memory I inherited from the dragon there was no memory about engraving.  
My nails can cut everything and though I saw it only I tried to imitate it but it didn't go well at all and trees were just cut down in vain.

Because I promised Yggdrasil that I would show it to her when it was done I couldn't make something miserable.

When I was utterly at lost suddenly the faces of the two good natured giants appeared in my mind.

I visited the home of the giants and when asked to teach me how to make a totem pole they raised a splendid laughter as usual and willingly became my teachers.

And thus I, under the instruction of both of them was making a totem pole. Although I wasn't a good student but with their kindness both of them carefully and patiently led me.

Learning was pleasant. I was excited to be able to do something which I couldn't do before.

As a result of two day guidance by the giants at last the foundation part of the totem pole began to take shape.

"Ndee, ryuu-sama what did you make?"

Before I could answer Fafner's question Fasolt interrupted.

"Ba, ba , baka-ani-sha , w ,w , without doubt it is a catfish."

"Ouuuu, a catfish, it has a wide mouth with a certain charm."

Both of them nod with Unun while looking at my sculpture.

Fumu... a catfish, it sure does resemble it.

I could insist that it was a catfish otherwise I would have to tell them of my immaturity and what a bad student I was.

"No, Fafner that is you."

After hearing my answer their jaws dropped and then they began to laugh with a splendid laugh that shook the mountain.

"Buwhahahaha!! What, that is my face?"

"Hahihi hahihahi, a, a, ani-sha, i ,i ,it's a catfish giant."

After the two giants laughed for a while I pointed at another sculpture above Fafner.

"Ryuu-sama that is. What is that above me?"

"A, ani-sha, i , it certainly is a hippopotamus."

“No, Fasolt that is you.”

The two giants rolled around laughing louder than before.

“I see I’m a catfish and you’re a hippopotamus.”

“I, I, I’m a ,hi ,hi, hippopotamus?”

Fumu, after all that effort it is still bad?

But now that it was mentioned I certainly saw a hippopotamus riding a catfish.

Should I remake it once?

Though both giants couldn’t read mind they somehow read my thoughts and apologized for laughing and said this.

“The beginning is always hard. At the beginning what it looks like doesn’t matter what’s important is the heart. The totem pole that ryuu-sama wants to create.”

“Ry, ry, ryuu-sama thank you, m, m, me and my ani-shi have a pleasant smiling face.”

Fasolt and Fafner that I sculptured were modeled with opened big mouth that always smiled or laughed.

Those two said that they liked my clumsy sculpture.

Under the guidance of the two I began to make a sculpture.

When the light of the sun turned golden the faces of the two giants who were the foundation of the totem pole were almost completed.

“Certainly this toothless silly face resembles Fasolt.”

“A, a, ani-sha is a dango i, i, it looks just like it.”

From that somehow the catfish and hippopotamus became the faces of Fafner and Fasolt. This is mostly thanks to the patient teachers.

However, like the door before and this totem pole I’m indebted to these two giants.

I asked the two whether I could do anything in return.  
Though I'm clumsy there should be something I could do for them.

Though the two of them repeatedly said that they didn't need anything they soon realized that I wouldn't compromise and said this.

"A, a, ani-sha ,t ,that ,h , h, how about we ask ryuu-sama about that?"

"That? Even if its ryuu-sama that is too unreasonable."

Fumu... Even if it's unreasonable I might be able to help.

Currently I was standing in front of a huge rock wall which was ten times as high as me. The rock had a black dull luster and radiated an overwhelming presence that rejected everyone.

"Under this rock formation there is supposed to be high quality iron..."

"I, i, it's too hard f , f, for any of our tools."

Fafner's and Fasolt's request was whether I could do something about this huge rock which blocked the iron vein.

Even these two giants couldn't do anything to this rock mountain.

For example my dragon nail could scrape of this rock but it would need one or two days considering its size.

"It's alright you don't have to overdo it we can get iron from other places."

"T, t, the day is nearly over r, r, ryuu-sama should return for today."

The two giants standing in front of the rock thought that it would impossible said so to me.

The rock certainly is big and it would take time scraping it...

"Fasolt, Fafner. Can I try to destroy this rock?"

When the two giants had retreated far to the back I stood in front of the rock mountain.

The two giants asked “Is it alright” while being uneasy and I told them that they should withdraw a bit more.

Now, what should I do? My strongest weapon is my dragon roar.

Normally the dragon roar’s only effect is to deprive the consciousness of living being. However combined with my method as cicada it became a strong sonic weapon.

With its power I should be able to break this hard rock mountain like it was made of candy.

My lungs swelled with deep breath I took.

I kneaded it together with magic while inside of me.

The atmosphere trembled, any sound of living beings disappeared and the vegetation began to scream.

Don’t worry, nobody beside the rock will be damaged.

I took aim at the rock and released a roar at its direction.

The strongest roar that could shatter the world.

While remembering the time as a cicada,

To the limit of power,

ROAR.

**“MIIIIIIIIIIIIIIINNN!!!”**

(TL: HAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA)

The roar collided with the rock and pierces into it. A cloud of dust wells up and rose like a tornado.

That should be enough. With that conviction I looked at the place where the rock mountain stood.

The dust cloud calmed down and the view slowly clears.

The rock wall that was bathed in my roar....., its appearance hadn't changed at all.

.....

.....

..... ohhh?

"That's what happened Yggdrasil."

"Eetto, so roommate-san roar lost its power?"

After the meal I tell Yggdrasil today's events like always.

The bark had absorbed the heat of the sun during the day and a pleasant warm voice came from the back.

The roar I released in front of the giants at that time only scraped the surface of the rock a little.

The rock wasn't too hard. That rock of black basalt stone, though it certainly is hard but I would be able to crush it into pieces in a week.

Although I tried it again several time afterwards, my roar had lost its power.

It deprived the opponents consciousness, the dragon's roar original intention was to keep things alive and well. There was no shadow of it anymore after the roar turned into a sonic weapon with the vocalization of a cicada.

My roar had weakened but there were signs in hindsight.

Several days ago when the lizardman miko crawled in at night, the dragon's roar I had released at that time had only injured her a little.

I formulated a hypothesis. Over these couple days, the might of my roar had weakened day by day.

I didn't understand the reason for it even with the dragon's wisdom.

Though I didn't know only one idea came to my mind, I might finally become a true dragon.

My cicada soul changed to that of a dragon every day and the soul of a dragon goes along with the body, so the vocalization of the cicada was removed from the body?

I who was a cicada became a full dragon...

"Yggdrasil, can you see if anything had changed with my body?"

Day by day the soul turned into that of a dragon. Then haven't changes occurred to the body too? I haven't noticed...

From the day I met Yggdrasil no more than ten days had passed.

If it was Yggdrasil who knew more than anyone else she might have noticed changes in me?

"...tsu!... changes, is it?"

The voice transmitted from Yggdrasil showed that she was concealing something.

We didn't use words to converse. Therefore even the smallest change in the other party's mind could be understood.

I guess. Yggdrasil was aware of the changes occurring in my body.  
However, why did she never tell me?

"Why didn't you tell me? Yggdrasil. I want to know what's happening to my body. No matter what's happening I will accept it."

I steeled myself. Was there something else, I resolved myself to know if there was something else.

Yggdrasil resisted the me who asked sincerely and then seemed to had finally given up concealing it.

Drop by drop she began to speak.

“...that, these past days... , roommate-san’s body...”

Her words were heavy and I listened to them in silence.

“That... , only... , only a little bit...”

Just from her few words I could feel her concern and anxiety.

...I see, apparently “only a few” changes had happened to me.

“Only a little... , thought it might be my misunderstanding...”

She wasn’t able to continue her words. The last words couldn’t be said, only repeated ambiguous words several times.

“Please tell me Yggdrasil! For me! Please honestly tell me who I am!”

With that last push Yggdrasil finally said the last words.

“Y... , you became round!”

.....

.....

..... round?

I’m “round” I looked down on my body, no, I tried to look down...

- muni - (*TLN: soft sfx*)

The meat at my jaw was held up.

Afterwards, while apologizing many times Yggdrasil hurriedly tried to comfort me, I thanked her for honestly telling me and decided to go to bed since it was already late.

While closing my eyes in the cave of the world tree I sorted out my thoughts.

The cicada cry, it could create a loud sound by amplifying the sound in the hollow of the stomach. By the same method for a dragon's roar it became a powerful weapon.

However now,

- muni -

When I tried to grab my belly the meat there couldn't fit into the hand. My body was covered in a large amount of fat.

In other words, the fat took away the sound and power from my roar.

For example a drum, by covering a board of wood with a thin skin the music instrument could create loud sounds reverberating in the hollow. So. It pretty much resembled the mechanism of a cicada's cry.

However, what would happen if a lot of skins were piled over the drum and the wood was thick like a millstone?

The reverberation of the sound would be absorbed by the skin and the wood and only a small sound would be created even if it was beat intensely.

In short the fat which covered my body decreases the effect of the echo sharply and the internal cavity is reduced therefore the power of the roar was taken away.

Well, the cause of the roar weakening was finally understood.

Then next was the question why I had become fat but there wasn't any point to talk about it.

Overeating, no, drinking too much.

Since I was born I only drank the sap from Yggdrasil.

In addition to that I never got tired of its taste and day by day the quantity of sap increases and I didn't know restraint.

The sap from Yggdrasil is wonderful, it's filled with complete nutrition and a mysterious life force therefore the most valuable meal in the world. It goes without saying that it was also good for the health.

However, no matter how good it is, it is bad to consume it too much.

My body which wasn't able to use up the nourishment and vitality in the sap seemed to have chosen to accumulate it as fat.

Unlike the time as a cicada, presently I had no natural enemy or competitors for feeding ground and unwittingly consumed an amount of sap bigger than needed.

The result, I ended fat unworthy of a wild animal and the power of my roar had been lost.

Ohh, even if it lost its power the original roar from the dragon is still the same. Even if an enemy showed up by any chance it could take their consciousness.

To begin there didn't exist an enemy for me on this island and even if my roar was endured a creature which scales can block my fangs didn't exist.

The power of my roar had weakened but it wasn't an obstacle to live as a dragon.

However

- muniin -

I grabbed my stomach again.

It was too unbecoming to have a body like a rubber ball.

Above all in front of Yggdrasil this fat body was shameful.

I think I have to start dieting from tomorrow on...

## Part 2

“Ara? Roomate-san I see a ship.”

After breakfast Yggdrasil said so to me who was about to sculpt the totem pole again today.

When I looked at the direction she indicated [karachapon] sound could be heard from my stomach.

Yesterday's determination was in vain, I had without reserve enjoyed Yggdrasil's sap this morning.

Fighting against the desire is very hard in this hollow where the mellow fragrance of the sap drifts when I wake up.

And without thinking I drink the sap because it had been carved into the soul of mine. Until I move to my new nest dieting will be absolutely impossible.

Maa, setting that aside I looked hard in the direction Yggdrasil indicated.

One small boat was taking the ocean current and was drifting towards this island. There was no human on the small boat. Only one bug box was placed.

Ohh? What's that? When I looked into the memories of the preceding dragon I immediately found what it was.

That was a ship with a human sacrifice.

It was approximately 300 years ago when humans tried to conquer this land and led a large fleet to this island.

The late dragon didn't voluntarily attack human countries on his own but it was a different story if the other party attacked.

He alone with roars, claws and flame annihilated the human fleet.

Afterwards the dragon flew over to the continent and a city was burned to the ground so that humans would never think of doing it again.

The humans who feared the power of the dragon promised that they would once a

year offer seven virgins as a sacrifice and so the island wasn't interfered with a second time.

And every year during this season humans would offer the sacrifices on ship to this island.

The sailors were afraid of approaching the island so they came close with a medium ship and put the sacrifices into a box on the small boat which was then put down during the high tide.

The sacrifices in the box were eaten by the dragon in the light of the next day.

...fumu. Who had done this...?

Currently I wasn't lacking any food and I couldn't such a cruel thing to a living being with intelligence and eat a human girl which was full of futures.

I should send the girls back to their families and inform the humans that such sacrifices aren't necessary anymore.

After I told Yggdrasil so I flew towards the small boat which floated on the sea.

I should help those poor girls fast which are trembling while being confined... I thought.

The small boat floating on the sea advanced straight with the high tide.

For the time being I raised the small boat onto the beach. And according to my memory there was no human other than those in the box on the ship.

The sacrifices were confined in a roughly three meters oblong box and its purpose was to prevent the humans from running away and throwing their bodies into the sea, so it was severely sealed with chains from the outside.

I didn't hear voices from the inside, while usually the chosen seven would be frightened.

I cut off the chain with my nail and took off the lid. I was thinking on how to call out to the girls without surprising.

As expected there was one girl inside the box.

While I was wondering a little I opened my mouth to call out to the girl.

At that moment my heart was pierced by a flash of light.



“There are two reasons why a human can’t win against a dragon.”

The snakelike eyes ominously shook in the candle light.

Here was the human capital 1000 kilometer away from the dragon’s island. In the pope’s private room the low voice of the sorcerer resounded...

“One is its roar. That was the reason why the fleet of 100.000 soldiers were sank in the great war 300 years ago. The dragon’s roar acts directly on the human mind. There is no meaning in covering the ears or defensive walls by magic. Be it tens of thousands or millions of soldiers when faced with the dragon’s roar they are powerless like ants which fell into the ocean.”

The audience of the speech was only one man. The man wore a vestment of purplish red and sat at the head of the table and repeatedly nodded with a solemn face

“Another reason are its scales that defends the dragon’s body which no human can pierce. Neither iron nor steel can injure the scales of a dragon. Moreover it had a high magic resistance. It is impossible for the human race to injure a dragon with sword and magic. After all a dragon is an invincible creature. However during the age of myths there existed humans called hero which certainly have accomplished killing a dragon. How did the ancient heroes destroy dragons? Your majesty the Pope.”

“With ancient weapons...?”

The man asked by the sorcerer painfully answered.

The only audience of the solo performance of the sorcerer was the Pope Pius II (Pius the second). In other words the person considered the head of the Holy City.

He had no ambition and was known as a human with only pure faith. He was called the man closest to a saint. To the historians of the future generations he was described

as a man who combined the greatest virtues and faults as a pope.

"That's right. With the ancient god weapons two of the dragon weapons, the roar and the scales are invalidated. The Spear of Valkyria which boast the highest offensive power of the ancient weapons that can easily pierce the scales of a dragon. And about the problem with the roar..."

"Those whose mind was already broken, the dragon's roar won't reach...?"

To the words of the pope which didn't conceal the hint of regret the sorcerer gave a short laugh.

"A sacrifice is necessary to evoke a miracle of god. Though what was done to the girl was pitiful but that lost life could fulfill our long-cherished ambition to save the world tree. We must prevent the realization of the prophecy at all costs. [A calamity will arrive from beyond the world, the shell will break and all the stars will be devoured...]"

The sorcerer recited the prophecy from the miko of clairvoyance.

Ten years ago the words from the miko of clairvoyance shook the senate of the Holy City.

Who is it? The unimaginable dreadful existence that suddenly appeared and the prophecy that it would destroy the world.

At that time the twelve cardinals were thrown into a commotion and following the words of the miko everyone offered prayers to the Holy Tree.

" [... The Holy tree reverses fate. The blood that flows from the star becomes the blood of the Holy Tree and the death of the start changes to the death of the Holy Tree. And humans will receive eternal prosperity from the fertilizer from the remains of the Holy Tree] was it?"

Pius continued the following phrase. The Holy Tree bleeds instead of the star. In other words outcome of the prophecy would be the collapse of the Holy Tree Yggdrasil which substitutes for the world.

The end of the lifespan of the dragon, the expression of breaking the shell from that the senate guessed that a new true dragon would be born soon.

Pius II which was known to be more pious back in then would stand up to protect the world tree, the pillar of faith when necessary.

For the world tree it was necessary to destroy the dragon with the power of humans.

However the remaining eleven cardinals objected to it.

There was only one reason. The last line of the prophecy [And humans will receive eternal prosperity from the fertilizer from the remains of the Holy Tree] it was this sentence.

The world would lose the world tree but the promise to greet a time of long prosperity became a gospel for the corrupted faith tied with politics.

Even if they didn't lift a hand the Holy Tree would protect the world.

Though it would be a great lost to lose the Holy Tree but originally because the dragon was living on the island it was impossible to worship the appearance of the world tree not to mention a pilgrimage.

Even if that place was lost it wasn't a great obstacle to the faith.

Because of the existence that risked its life to save the world the religious community of the world tree would gather further faith.

Additionally if it advanced as prophesied the calamity, which was the dragon would surely vanish from this world.

As long as the dragon perished it was easy to conquer the island of the world tree.

The island of the world tree had a large quantity of minerals like gold and silver and it was even said that magic stones could be found.

And humans will receive eternal prosperity from the fertilizer from the remains of the Holy Tree; that line certainly meant that humans would obtain the island of the world tree.

Praying to the world tree every day and not meddle with the dragon, wasn't that the mission of a religious community?

These were the opinions of the cardinals except Pius II and the decision.

Only piety was Pius II merit and he didn't have the political ability to overturn it.

One Year passed, then two years passed and the cardinals prepared for the near future and concentrated their power to lay the groundwork for the territory distribution of the island of the world tree but still Pius II hadn't given up on saving the world tree.

And then five years passed. On a certain morning a pigeon arrived at the room of Pius II.

One piece of letter was tied to the foot of the pigeon. And written down in the letter was this.

[To save the world tree do you wish to destroy the dragon by the hands of man?]

The letter to the pope was a secret but it was possible to make arrangements.

And so to the place where only the pope had the key the sorcerer was led to the room where the ancient weapons lay.

And there the Spear of Valkyria shined with a gray light.

And now at the first month the sorcerer according to the promise he had created a user for the Spear of Valkyria with strong magical power.

For several decades a user for the Spear of Valkyria hadn't appeared.

Furthermore the user was still a young girl and Pius II couldn't hide his surprise. And while shedding tears for the girl "Sorry, sorry" but even when the pope repeated it the eyes of the girl who had lost her mind didn't move

"Still, do you regret it? Your majesty the pope."

Pius II was woken up from his deep recollection by the voice of the sorcerer.

"Ancient weapons aren't things that could be handled by normal people. I'm fascinated by all the users of ancient weapons. However it wasn't possible to fight against the dragon's roar. Losing the mind and soul that was the only way for small existence to fight against powerful enemies."

That was the reason why since ancient times the ancient weapons were rarely used.

The ones who can use the ancient arms if they didn't have strong magical power then

“Fusion” happens and it was their fate to continue fighting as a weapon until the day their magic and life were exhausted by the weapon.

In other words the selected person was sacrificed like a chess piece.

“...The soul that was consumed by the ancient weapon, is there no way to return it?”

The pope asked the sorcerer. Though he knew that the answer didn’t exist.

The pope who was too gentle and couldn’t world tree and also the girl be saved? He still kept worrying.

“Your majesty the death of the soul is more decisive than physical death. Even the world tree can’t heal the soul. Not to mention any magic or medicine could return the girl to normal. Though the story would be different if it was the elixir which existed in ancient times...”

The sorcerer repeated the denial who knows how many times already.

Those words meant that the means to save the girl didn’t exist anymore. The only thing Pius II could do was pray for her soul to be loved by the gods up in Valhalla. The pope prayed for save travel for her soul to heaven and connected the three points head, heart and navel with three fingers.

“The strategy is perfect. If it advances light arranged then she and the dragon will meet soon. The Spear of Valkyira has to pierce the heart of the dragon without fail.”

The sorcerer looked into the western direction. Even if his eyes couldn’t see it, that was where the island of the dragon should be.

“(Nee-san... I will clear your regrets)”

The small mutter of the man didn’t reach the ears of the pope.

The pope didn’t know it.

More than 20 years ago, a certain beautiful girl was chosen as the sacrifice for the white dragon.

The younger brother of that girl only lived only for his belief in taking revenge for his

older sister.

Therefore he had bought a salve in a certain village, a girl who had talent and overflowing magical powers and brought her up as the user of the spear.

The younger brother imagined the scene on the far away island where his elder sister died that the dragon would cease to breathe right now.

The dragon fell to ruin by the weapon the created, that sweet imagination.

He closed his eyes. There was the disgusting dragon struggling in an ugly sea of blood.

And inside the dream of the man the Spear of Valkyria blew off the dragon's head.

## Part 3

The ray went exactly through my heart. Blood welled up from my throat.

Even the body of a dragon can be mortally wounded.

I thought that I heard Yggdrasil's scream from the center of the island.

The pain from being born wasn't this severe.

By the force I was pierced with I topple over and landed on my back.

The girl might know magic because she was floating in the sky. She wore something with a dull gray luster which covered here whole right half of her body.

[Ancient weapon] the dragon's wisdom warned me.

It was a distant memory that the white dragon inherited from many preceding generations.

At the age where dragons competed against gods, god gave humans an ominous dragon killing weapon.

It took the life and soul of its user, a double edged sword to kill dragons.

The dragon's roar didn't affect the users who had lost their souls to the weapon.

Upon a life crisis the inherited knowledge unfolded and a terrific speed inside my head.

Time started to slow down. One second felt like minute or even an hour.

Hollow eyes looked down on me.

The eyes of the girl had no light and were the same gray as the weapon.

The gray right hand was slowly lifted. The aim of the ancient weapon locked onto my head.

It had no intention to stop.

If it took single blow to the head at this distance, even if I was a dragon I would certainly die.

Why, do you want to destroy me?

Why, do you want to kill me?

The gray girl said nothing. She didn't talk.

Therefore I... ,

I flew towards the sky.

I didn't understand the reason; there was no reason to kill me.

The wound on my chest had already "Healed".

I changed my direction when I flew over the head of the girl and flew away towards the sea while drawing an arc.

The light emitted by the ancient weapon came chasing while tracing my orbit.

From the several rays one hit my wing and pierced it.

That wound also in an instant "Healed".

I released a dragon's roar towards the girl.

However like my inherited memories showed it had no affect on the girl who had lost her soul to the ancient weapon.

The empty eyes of the girl didn't falter under my roar.

Humans possessed by the weapon were something like machines which only repeated their given order.

The girl shoots her ancient weapon towards me again. I daringly received the ray with lethal force with my palm.

The ray pierced through my palm and went into the distance of the sea.

The wound on my hand, the blood began to bubble and was healed instantly.

“I get it...”

I understood the phenomenon that took place in my body.  
And without minding the girl I decided to leave and escape from the island.

As intended the girl also ran after me using flight magic.

So as to not shake her off I flew at a speed limit that the girl could chase me with.

“...Around here should be alright?”

At the center of the vast expanse of the ocean I finally turned around. I was able to get away far enough from the island.

The reason that I moved out to the sea was to not damage the creatures living on the island.

Ancient weapons were powerful and Yggdrasil might suffer wounds.

On the open sea it wasn't necessary to worry about my surroundings while fighting.

The girl with gray eyes that chased me, I right now will confront her in a dignified manner.

“Why do you wish to kill me? Child of man.”

I tried to converse but the mouth of the girl didn't open.

After all holding a conversion with a human whose soul was consumed by an ancient weapon was impossible.

Instead of words the girl shot her ancient weapon at me again.

Though the arrow of light pierced my foot it's once again healed instantly.

I was already convinced.

This girl couldn't kill me.

There was nothing in this world that could kill me.

Why did my wounds heal so easily?

The creature called dragon had high regenerative power to begin with but it was impossible for a wound which went through the heart to be healed immediately. Originally...

I had an idea to the mystery that was happening to my body.

The miraculous reason was the sap from Yggdrasil that I drank every day.

For these past ten days I ate nothing beside the sap from Yggdrasil. In other words, right now the blood and flesh of my body contained an abundant amount of sap from the world tree.

It goes without saying that the healing effect of the leaf from the world tree was strong. Therefore it wasn't mysterious for the healing power to also dwell in the sap.

The sap from the world tree had a high healing power and mixing it with the blood of a dragon which had similarly high magic power it gave birth to a healing power close to immortality.

Light was shot from the girl's ancient weapon, however, I evaded at a speed surpassing it by many times.

Even though damage to my body was healed instantly I didn't have the hobby to purposely getting hit.

"The same attack won't work over and over again with a dragon as the opponent. Thou can no longer defeat me."

However my voice didn't reach the girl. The girl continued shooting rays towards me like a machine.

A monotonous attack without mind will no longer be able to hit the flying me again.

After that, how much time had passed?

The girl was on the verge of dying.

Because of that reason I didn't do anything. I did nothing but continue dodging the rays.

The ancient weapon radically consumed the vitality and magic power of its user.

Thought he girl had originally a considerable amount of magic power but as expected with this number of attacks she would dry up.

The interval between the ray attacks became longer and she could only shoot one ray per minute now.

The aim wasn't precise too and from the mouth of the girl nothing but groans could be heard.

While fighting I only thought about one thing.

The method to win against the ancient weapon.

For me who had a body close to invulnerability it was easy to kill this girl.

I could approach without minding the ray and bite her to death or sever the head with my claw and the fight would have ended long ago.

Even if I didn't defeat her by myself if she continued to shoot another several rays then the light of life would be swallowed by the ancient weapon and she would disappear.

However that didn't mean that I had won against the ancient weapon.

I only felt anger towards the relic from the old gods left for men.

The girl wasn't even ten years old.

Though people didn't live as long as dragons but still they would live 70 or even 80 years.

She had a big future ahead. But that weapon deprived the girl of her future.

I searched through the dragon's knowledge. A method to save the girl, a method to overcome the ancient weapon.

It was also called the sage's wisdom and the dragon's knowledge told me this.

[Ancient weapons fuse together with the human body at cellular level. It was impossible to separate the ancient weapon by force and even the weapon was destroyed the soul of the user wouldn't revive. When the ancient weapon is separated from the body the user's life would be extinguish. If the user died the weapon would fall into sleep until a new user appeared. It was a parasite that consumed life. That is the ancient weapon. ]

I continued searching through my inherited knowledge.

There had to be a method.

The dragon's wisdom should know it.

[...There is one exception, only with the elixir the user of the ancient weapon can be saved. The elixir drives away all foreign body that is mixed into the body of the human and it is even possible to revive the heart and soul that got consumed by the weapon.  
]

Elixir.

It was the water of life that even surpassed the power of gods. The manufacturing method was lost during the ancient times and it is said that a bottle can buy a whole country.

Indeed with the elixir the girl could certainly be saved.

However, it was useless. The elixir didn't exist among the treasures I inherited from the white dragon.

Some might remain in ruins of long forgotten places but the situation was urgent. I had no time to leisurely go on a treasure hunt.

I searched through my memory, through the preceding predecessor and even those before them, I dived into the depths of the old memories.

I ceaselessly dived into the knowledge that was inherited by dragons.

Anything, was there anything? The method to save this girl.....!!

There it was in a deep, deep corner of my memory.

The lost method to refine elixir.

More than 10.000 years ago, a story where the dragon still lived happily with humans on this island.

The dragon had one friend. It was a young person with a gentle nature.

Once they were invaded by an epidemic and in order to save the dying people he researched and researched the method to create the elixir.

The dragon offered to help and he talked about the method with a shy smile.

And with the effort of a human and the desire of a dragon the mysteries of the stars were put together and born from that was the first elixir.

And the island that gave birth to the elixir became a genuine utopia.

What was the manufacturing method...

There!

A heavenly revelation swooped down on me.

Of course, I currently had no time to leisurely make the elixir. There was no time to collect the materials because the girl ran out of time to purify her.

...That's why, if it was that then it might be worth trying. I'll gamble everything on this.

My wings began to flap and I soar high into the sky. The girls chased me and also rose into the sky.

The fight had started several hours ago. The sun was at its peak above us and I arranged the sun, me and the girl in a line.

During the long fight I had understood the fighting habits of the girl.

After shooting the ancient weapon in exchange for her life and magic power she would then inhale deeply to replenish the lost oxygen.

But it was the biggest chance for this girl.

Now, come, shoot it!

I timing with her aim. When the girl released a ray above her I dodged by slightly twisting my body.

The ancient weapon no longer had its initial power or speed.

The girl who had shot her ancient weapon was now completely defenseless.

When I turned my body around I flew towards the girl.

With a speed that the girl couldn't catch up to.

Towards the girl who was about to take a deep breath with her mouth, I!

*- Jobuwaa -*

A large amount of liquid was released towards the girl from my excretory organ.

The girl was near death couldn't evade the huge liquid lump which was several time her volume.

The liquid wraps around the girl and entered her mouth which was opened to take a large breath for oxygen.

And...

*- Gokun -*

I heard the sound of the liquid entering the throat of the girl.

The girl certainly had drunk it.

Well, there was a reason why I did it of course.

It was the refining method for the elixir from the old dragon's memory. The main materials were the leaf from the world tree and the blood of a dragon.

The refining method of the elixir was to boil water from the 3000m underground

which the world tree pumped up from the star, the liquid would be then infused with a mysterious power, after that the blood of a dragon will be mixed into it, then for it will be placed for seven days and seven nights, under the light of the sun and the magic power of the moon and finally only the clear liquid at the top will be extracted.

That was the method to refine the original elixir.

But then I thought.

The leaf of the world tree, the water filled with the vitality of the star, containing mysterious power, wasn't that Yggdrasil's sap itself?

About the blood of a dragon. Blood and urine are composed of almost the same material. In other words it should be possible to substitute the blood of a dragon with the urine of a dragon.

I had been alive for ten days already.

I had drunk Yggdrasil's sap everyday and hadn't I bathed in the light of the sun and moon enough too?

Then currently my blood and urine, shouldn't they be nearly the same as the elixir?

And I had noticed that an abnormal healing power dwelled in me.

The blood coagulates momentarily at the damaged part and even meat and bones are regenerated. That was the effect of the elixir from my memory.

Though it would be a problem to make the girl drink my blood or urine but it was easy for me.

From when I was a cicada, the me who had experience in showering humans who chased after insects with urine, there was no difficulty and was just at the level of a trick.

And now the world was wrapped in silence.

With large drops of water dripping from her body, the girl had stopped moving.

With doubt and uneasiness I watched the girl.

The girl stood stone still as if time had completely stopped.

With only the surface of the sea spreading before my eyes I began to waver.

It didn't have an effect? Or...?

The eyelids were the first to move.

The two eyelids opened and closed and then the grey eyes of the girl regained the light of life.

Her mouth opened.

A voice could be heard.

“Fue...”

Fue...?

**“Fuenenenen fuenenenen”**

It was my... Victory!

Was that the reaction when regaining the consumed soul and emotion?

The girl who was like a doll a while ago began to squeal loudly like a newborn baby.

**“Fuenenenen fuenenenen”**

The hateful ancient weapon which controlled the girl slowly fell off from her shoulder disappeared at the bottom of the blue sea.

**“Fuenenenen fuenenenen”**

This powerful cry might be the song of the girl's soul.

The girl was saved and I had won against the ancient weapon.

**“Fuenenenen fuenenenen”**

The girl's voice resounded in the area. However didn't she cry with a nice voice?

I was inspired by the cry from the girl and raised a cry of victory.

**"Miin min min min Miin min min min"**

**"Fuenenenen fuenenenen"**

As if rivaling me the cry from the girl became even louder.

**"Miin min min min Miin min min min"**

I sent my voice towards Yggdrasil.

Don't worry Yggdrasil. I won.

The girl was saved and the malicious weapon has been buried.

**"Fuenenenen fuenenenen"**

The voice from the girl also resounded in the area.

Umu, it was a cheerful voice.

From the girl's cry the joy of being alive was transmitted.

**"Fuenenenen, p, pee, Fuenenenen"**

# Chapter 6

## Summer vacation of the dragon and the girl

### Part 1

***The eyes, what makes them cloudy? (Sakae Tsuboi)***

Children can be described with one word.

Pure, purity, innocence. (純粋、無垢、無邪氣)

Though there are various adjectives to describe young people but all of them contained yearning, nostalgia and only a little envy.

What the eyes of children reflect, we will never know how our appearance is seen by them.

One's appearance was full of possibilities. The you back then.

You wished that those days would never come back.

To get to love children.

Their futures not dirtied by adult's conveniences and circumstances. To arbitrarily dye them gray.

Children steadily grow up and watching them become a soft sun or a gentle rain.

And if you do so you might be able to learn to love yourself.

Children are lovely.

It's a warm feeling that shakes the heart like the joy of greeting spring.

The heart that can love spring, even if it isn't here yet, wasn't that proof that it stayed in our heart?

Ahh, spring. To grow big and bloom. For the coming summer, for the future.

And once summer ends, autumn passed and we greet winter than surely spring will stay in our hearts.

The existence of children can teach us this.

Even when old, spring is here.

I approach the child and slowly turn her around.

She might be hungry because children's nature is such and they demand food.

I quietly pat the lovely child.

Pure white skin and small bulges, though a little damp but it was a soft feeling.

It was the size of my palm, not to break it, not to hurt it, twice, thrice, I traced the ridge line from the nape to the back

“Mokyu?”

Umu. It's a lovely thing after all. The larva.

That was enough, so as not to further obstruct the meat of the infant giant world drone beetle (*Rhomborrhina japonica*) I quietly left the place.

“Welcome back roommate-san..... how was it?”

Yggdrasil greeted me when I came back to the nest.

However, her voice was unusual and somewhat firm.

Her usual voice was like a soft young leave that budded, but today her voice was like something was stuck in her mouth and became stiff with tension.

“You don't have to worry. There seemed to be no other ship here. Nothing was found.”

“What a relief... In truth, I was worried.”

Yggdrasil’s voice returned to her usual tone.

She had a gentle heart. She must have been awfully worried about the creatures on the island.

“Umu, please rest assured. During the fight no one was hurt.”

“But wasn’t roommate-san seriously injured!... really is your body alright already?”

“Ahh. I have said it many times already, it is thanks to your sap. Yggdrasil.”

After the fight with the girl Yggdrasil who had waited at the nest for my return, had lost her composure which you couldn’t imagine from her usual calm self.

Yggdrasil had seen the place where the ancient weapon had pierced my heart and she worried if I had died or if it was an illusion. She kept worrying and worrying for a long time.

I was ashamed to have caused the gentle her so much sorrow and anxiety.

“How is the girl?”

“She is still asleep. Though she occasionally leaks painful sounds but her flame of life keeps getting stronger..... the old gods... , really, such a cruel thing...”

The girl in question was now sleeping in a hollow of Yggdrasil.

No matter how often I repeated that I was alright but she kept worrying about my body and that’s why I told her in my usual powerful singing voice till she finally believed that it was alright.

However Yggdrasil didn’t settle down while shaking her leaves she showed anger towards the girl who was employed this time.

I was puzzled at the passion Yggdrasil had shown for the first time but because of the ancient weapon the girl was blameless and the Yggdrasil’s anger towards the girl turned into affection of the same size.

After laying down the girl into a hollow of the world tree Yggdrasil also offered me to also take a rest but I firmly refused because I had to do something.

What I should be doing was to search for the nearby ship where the girl appeared from.

Someone other than the girl might have gone ashore. That ship might scatter poison and curses.

Though it wasn't any trouble for me who was near invulnerable but that didn't apply to the creatures living on the island.

After entrusting the girl to Yggdrasil I kept searching the island until the sun went down.

There was no trace that somebody came except of the girl and even the ship was empty except the box like coffin of the girl.

Curses, poison, anchor, paddle not even water or food was there.

The ship was empty except for the girl who was deprived of her mind and future.

And it wasn't clear if the girl who was the sacrifice to the dragon was really a human sacrifice.

The creature called human could become crueler than any living being at times.

"Th... , then roommate-san. N... , now that your work is done... , then... , isn't it about time to dine?"

Yggdrasil's voice interrupted my thoughts.

Yggdrasil's modest suggestion. The sap had already begun to permeate from the crack of the damp bark.

"It'll be my pleasure Yggdrasil..... But before that we should give the girl some food."

While searching the island I had found a withered Attenborough's pitcher plant (*Nepenthes attenboroughii*). (*TLN: It's a carnivorous pitcher plant*)

The Attenborough's pitcher plant was shaped like a sake bottle. The demi-humans on

the island used this plant as a substitute for glass or water bottles.

-Joboboobobo -

I produced elixir in it. The Attenborough's pitcher plant was big. The elixir was thoroughly caught in it.

“.....Eetto,... is that the elixir? Roommate-san?

“Umu, this is the elixir. Yggdrasil.”

I entered the hollow. The girl had her eyelids shut and released a heavy and painful voice.

“Poor thing...”

I quietly lifted the head of the girl who seemed to have a nightmare with my nail and brought the elixir to her lips.

“Miin min min min.” (*TL: Now, drink*)

I poured the refined elixir into the throat of the fainted girl but she coughed because it entered the wrong pipe and she spit out the liquid that entered her mouth.

Her eyebrows wrinkled and her lovely face warped like a walnut.

“Miin min min min.” (*TL: Rest assured. There is nothing to worry about. Now, open your mouth, and drink well*)

And matching the breathing of the girl I slowly poured in the elixir.

The girl had a coughing fit whenever she drank but only half of it was spilled.

However, the Attenborough's pitcher plant was big. There was enough elixir to pour into her throat.

The elixir definitely worked because the skin of the girl flushed and I understood that her light of life grew stronger.

Though she still had a nightmare but her breathing gradually calmed down.

I sincerely wished that the girl would have a nice dream and then I left.

Because the girl was sleeping in the hollow I decided to sleep outside while entrusting my body to the trunk of Yggdrasil.

“The stars are in clear view today, Yggdrasil.”

“Yes, the sky is very clear today. The small stars that couldn’t be seen all the time shine so much.

In the sky we look up to a sea of stars spread out.

On a moonless night the stars the stars didn’t have to be reserved and insisted their existence to their heart’s content.

Without exchanging words between Yggdrasil and me we just looked up at the stars.

And nameless stars swiftly fell.

“Do you know the constellation? Yggdrasil.”

I thought incidentally and asked Yggdrasil.

“Constellation was it? About that I don’t know much... Does roommate-san know about it?”

“Ahh, it’s in the inherited knowledge. It’s an interesting thing. The gathered stars are made into shapes and each has its story.”

“I had neither father, mother nor teacher..... that’s why, if it’s alright, will you teach me about the constellation?”

Yggdrasil asked me modestly. My answer had already been decided.

“Of course, Yggdrasil.”

While pointing at the constellation one by one I recited the related story to Yggdrasil.

The line of stars that stretched out wide in the sky like the shape of a swan's wing and the story about the serial cheating god.

The hero killed by poison and the story of the lone small scorpion that climbed the sky. The heart of the scorpion, the wise man and the horse that aims with its bow.

The names of the constellation I talked about Yggdrasil "I will never forget them" while thinking over them and each of those stories brought sympathy and surprise.

My knowledge about constellation was from the person who got along with the dragon, they were told by the young man who had refined the elixir.

The names given to the innumerable stars, the stories they were given, the power of human's dreams was immeasurable.

The sky hadn't changed for several thousand years.

The life of stars was over several thousands of years but they only show a little twinkling.

...No, there was something that differed from my memory in the sky.

"...fumu, what's that?"

"What is it?"

"There is a star in the sky I don't know. At the center of the great summer triangle I can see a small red star. What is that. Do you know? Yggdrasil."

What am I asking the woman who didn't even know the name of the stars.

Yggdrasil didn't answer.

## Part 2

The first memory that the girl recalled were the red soil and red sun.

Red like blood but it hadn't dried yet, the red that burned skin, the smell of death and more blood.

That was the famine.

A sheep dog which was thinner than a bone came out and stared at the girl as she was taken away.

The figure of the girl changed faintly, her eyes felt like they were covered in black resin and she thought that she would die soon.

The girl and the dog, were either of them fated to die, the girl didn't know.

Besides her hometown she remembered nothing else.

She didn't remember the face of her father or mother. She had the feeling that she had feelings but she wasn't sure.

She had understood that she was sold by her family for a long time now.

The girl remembered the red one beside her with dog's eyes like the god of death and the large and firm pale hand.

The pale hand that dragged the girl as she walked.

She understood that it was her owner's hand. The man who took her was a sorcerer.

The girl desperately walked on the red earth as she walked.

With her short steps she had to take two steps for each of the man's steps.

Her skinny and unreliable feet got entangled many times and she had almost fallen down but the girl continued enduring it each time.

The man didn't glance at the girl which followed him desperately.

She thought that she would be killed if she stopped moving.

Her throat was dry from the sun's heat and the dry clouds of dust but the girl continued walking with quick steps until the limit of her life.

For several days she had neither drank water nor had a meal. Sweat no longer came out and she didn't know how to move her feet either.

In such a state how could she follow the steps of an adult?

And then the girl finally tripped.

When she fell she thought that she was done for. She closed her eyes tightly.

However, the girl didn't fall down. She timidly opened her eyes and saw that she was saved by the pale hand of the man.

The man finally looked at the girl and from under his robe a low cold voice said.

"Sorry."

The man had only apologized to the girl twice. The first.

Was when the man took out a leather flask. He silently thrusted it out.

The girl readily jumped at the flask. It was lukewarm, went bad and was unpalatable water that made her throat sticky, but still the sound of drinking could be heard from her throat until her figure looked like an old camel.

After she finished drinking she thought that there was no way back now.

Persephone who was kidnapped by Hades, she ate the pomegranate that grew in the underworld, then her body was tied to the underworld and when the goddess noticed that, her expression on her face was surely like the girl now.

How much money the man paid her father the girl didn't care because it wasn't her

problem.

The girl thought that the price for drinking the water meant that she had now become his possession.

When the man received the empty flask and then began to walk again while pulling the girl by her hand.

That was the start the girl recalled.

I was bought as a weapon to kill a dragon that was the first memory the girl brought up.

It was now a story from seven years ago.

“...a dream?”

When she woke up she was inside a cave.

Her small body lay on a soft bed made from moss.

Where was this, what time was it, though the girl didn't know but the certain weight of the existence of herself taught that this wasn't a continuation of the dream.

The girl tried to remember. She couldn't remember her last memory.

From when was her last memory?

She had fallen down many times and every time the grip on her hair woke her up. She was trained relentlessly and mercilessly by the sorcerer... , no, that wasn't it.

The far from pleasant food had the only objective to increase her magical power... , no, that wasn't it.

Her only relief was when she was asleep, however, she would be frightened inside her thing futon whenever morning came... , no, not this one either.

When she got up in the morning she offered a prayer at the tiny altar in her tiny room and persuaded herself that she would save the world tree and then she would throw herself into training like every day... , no, not this one either.

...Yes that was it, her last memory was about a gray mass.

From the gray mass numerous tentacles came out and got on her right arm.

With the horrifying feeling of something invading her body, she also felt that her ego was torn up.

At the last moment when all her five senses were deprived.

“Sorry.”

She could hear the voice from the man.

Then her memories broke off. The second apology from the man was the last memory of the girl.

Vexation, relief or fear?

The memories brought the girls to tears. The tears continued to fall and when she tried to wipe them with the hem of her clothes,

“...it smells of urine.”

The girl remembered her “last true memory”

In the true last memory the girl was crying.

The memory of herself who was crying like a child while staring into the distance.

And with the sorcerer every day the training that couldn't be describe with the word severe alone, she had never cried but there she had cried aloud.

Like swallowing a ball of lead, she had swallowed her cries for seven years. And for the first time since then the girl had cried.

There the girl, who had forgotten how to cry, cried like a child.

She remembered her last true memory, the lukewarm acrid smell and the slightly sweet tasting liquid.

And the fat evil dragon that looked down on the girl triumphant.

The disgusting dragon that laughed at the powerless human and sneered while releasing insulting liquid.

Like rotten maggots crawling down her throat, the girl was attacked by an intense disgust.

The girl headed for the cave wall and tried to spit out what she had drunk but she couldn't vomit it out because her body had already absorbed the liquid.

After having several coughing fits, she leaned her body on the cave wall.

To make up for the lacking air her chest moved up and down.

Her heart pounded in her chest.

To the sound of that certain beating the girl suddenly held a certain doubt.

“I, why am I still alive...”

The girl's doubt could only mean two things. One, she was defeated by the dragon but then why was she kept alive?

In the story she had heard, it was said that dragons liked human flesh above all. Why didn't the dragon eat her while she was unconscious?

From the extent of his fat he should have drank a lot of blood.

But according to the miko's prophecy not even 20 days should have passed since it was born.

For its body to become like that, how much blood and meat was poured into that mouth. Small creatures like herself should have been swallowed easily.

The evil dragon that devours everything, the girl didn't understand why it would keep her alive.

“The Spear of Valkyria should have fused with me...”

The girl understood that she had died as a result of the fusion with the ancient weapon.

Her soul was lost and she understood that her magical power and life had become fuel that was absorbed exhaustively.

After understanding it she hadn't run away from the Spear of Valkyria because of her faith to the world she saw no reason why she should run away.

Because she brought up for seven years to only kill the dragon by becoming the user of an ancient weapon.

The memory of any other way to live didn't exist.

After seven years she would spread her wings as a weapon. Her fate was to die at that instant.

The girl's life, though it might resemble the life of a cicada that lived for seven years in darkness in the ground, but hers was a lot sadder.

Why was she still alive, why was her ego restored?

Nobody answered the girl's mutter. There was nobody in the cave.

This was a huge cave.

The hemispheric space was much bigger than the cathedral of the Holy City.

The girl felt that a huge creature should be here.

However there was no discomfort and was just filled with gentle air.

"Holy" air might be a way to call it the girl thought.

The beautiful pattern of stained glass which decorated the cathedral of the Holy City had a different holy quality.

The space was soft and warm and it felt like someone was holding you and tears began to spill from the girl's eyes.

She couldn't bring herself to wipe the tears this time. Because she felt that the air which filled the cave said that it was okay to cry.

The pink morning light came from the outside.

The exit of the cave was dozens of times larger than the girl and dazzling.

And the girl without thinking headed there.

The outside of the cave was wide and when she walked into the world overflowing with light, like breaking the shell, she had the feeling as if she was reborn.

She walked outside while tracing the wall with her left hand.

Timidly, step by step. Like a baby that walked for the first time.

To know the world, to meet the newborn her.

“Miin min min min! Miin min min min!” (*TL: More, more Yggdrasil!*)

“Yes..., yes~...!... fuu... ah... ,... nnn!... there,... no!”

The new world, it was somewhat too difficult for the girl.

## Part 3

“Roommate-san, roommate-san”

My stomach was filled and when I was about to settle down Yggdrasil called me.

Before I could ask what was wrong a trembling high voice like a newborn wildcat screamed out.

“Wh-wh-what are you doing?! Evil dragon!”

I turned around towards the voice and standing there was the girl whose body was violated by the weapon.

Contrary to her courageous voice her body was trembling.

It was no wonder. There was no way to be not frightened while standing in front of a dragon.

With her utmost courage she stood strong with a fortitude that didn't match her age or appearance.

Now the eyes of the girl possessed a shine unlike the gray eyes from when she was possessed by the weapon.

Unlike before those were the eyes of a living person.

“Miin min min min?” (*TL: Fumu, is your body alright? Human child*)

“...eh? What? These words?”

“Miin min min min” (*TL: Dragons can't speak, did you think that? Without sufficient knowledge humans are haughty and conceited.*)

The girl covered her ears with her hands and looked with a face that didn't understand.

Humans seem to see only what they want to see and the ears seemed to be the same.

The girl didn't want to believe the fact that a dragon could speak words.

"(Roommate-san, roommate-san. She might have been surprised by your cry?)"

Yggdrasil quietly whispered to me with a volume like two leaves rubbing against each other.

No wonder, it was that.

Because the words of a dragon are the soul language and not spoken in human speech, therefore there was a discrepancy with the contents she understood from the dragon which didn't talk human language.

Then here, let's try to match it with the human method.

"...fumu, is this alright? Human child."

When I chose to spoke with the words of human from my inherited knowledge the girl sighed in relieve.

Although it didn't solve her caution of me.

"Well, first of all let's answer your question. You asked what I was doing and the answer to that is, I was having my meal."

The shoulder of the girls shook at the word "Meal". When her blue eyes noticed my big fangs her face was colored in fear.

"Did I startle you? I don't intend to eat you. To begin with I don't like either blood or meat."

"A, a dragon not liking human flesh is an obvious lie! Evil dragon!"

The words I had spoken to calm her seemed to have caused her further caution instead. The girl bent her body like a wildcat and shrank down.

"It's not a lie..... That you are still living, isn't that the best proof?"

The eyes of the girl swim. She noticed that there wasn't a discrepancy with between my words and reality.

The girl was about to say something but she kept quiet.

"Well, human child. May I ask a question? What's with that evil dragon thing? I have no memory of harming your people and have no intention to do so in the future either."

I who didn't remember anything that I should be ashamed of in this life tell her so with dignity while looking in the girl's eyes.

The girl flinched.

The truth was sharper than any weapon. I understood the girl's confusion.

The girl seemed to be praying because connected the head, heart and navel with three fingers.

Fumu..., if I wasn't mistaken that was a prayer for the protection of the world tree.

In the great war between the dragon and the humans 300 years ago that remained in the memory I inherited, all the humans have prayed like the little girl when they disappeared like seaweed in the sea.

"I will not be confused by your words! The dragon is an evil being! The preceding dragon demanded seven sacrifices every year! Also the miko-sama of clairvoyance..."

"Human-san, the dragon of this generation is a very gently person. He is anything but evil."

To the girl who was never going to accept my words and I had a hard time dealing with, Yggdrasil assisted me and cut off her words.

Yggdrasil saved me..... But calling me gentle, I was embarrassed.

"Ehh...? Whose voice is it? I heard it in my head... , where...?"

The girl was looking around while searching for the owner of the voice. That state was exactly like me when I met Yggdrasil for the first time.

"Here, small human-san."

The girl turned her head left and right. Umu. Even when said here she didn't understand it.

The girl totally wasn't aware of it, so I as her "Senpai" should teach her where here is.

"Human child, now, touch it with your left hand. It's the most beautiful and noble existence in the world. She can speak to dragons and humans and is much greater than me, there is no reason that you wouldn't understand her words."

"Mou, roommate-san you are exaggerating. You're praising me too much because I can give sap."

"It's what you said. I treasure sap above all."

The girl who heard our conversation seemed to have noticed the owner of the voice at last.

"No way..."

Her small blue eyes were opened wide.

"Nice to meet you small human-san. I'm Yggdrasil."



"Harpy, are you there?"

From the yurt I heard something rattling and rolling and from dripping water.

After a few minutes, from the entrance made of cloth, the harpy put out her head like a turtle.

As soon as seeing my appearance a smile bloomed on her face. Water was dripping from her blue hair.

...fumu, was she in the middle of bathing? My timing was bad.

I held out a finger to the head peeping from the tent and Harpy also strongly stretched

her head out to me.

The appearance of only extending her from the yurt really resembled a turtle and was lovely.

“(Good morning, ryu-san! Did you come to play?)”

“(No, to I have a little request. I want you to lend me clothes for girls.)”

“(For who...? UEE?! H-human?!)”

Harpy was awfully surprised by the girl who came out of my shadow.  
But it was no surprise, the humans who set foot on this ground were reckless savage  
adventurers because of the sacrifices to the dragon.

“(Don’t worry. I will make sure that no harm is done. If possible could I ask you to give  
her a bath?)”

“(Ah, y-yes! Of course!... B-but you are not allowed to watch! Ryu-san please wait  
outside!)”

I also realized it when she mentioned it. I don’t want to be an impolite peeping tom  
that watched women or girls change clothes.

I turned around to the girl and urged her into the Harpy’s house.

“She will lend you clothes. You mustn’t harm Harpy. Nyuju.”

The girl fell silent and timidly walked towards Harpy.  
Harpy also timidly watched the girl.

The two were small and were about the same height when lined up.

The human name she was called by was Nyuju.



“I-it’s the world tree?! I-I’m your faithful servant, I’m called Nyuju!”

Nyuju said so while kneeling down on the ground while pushing out her hands and formed a prayer and till she rubbed the ground.

Her back was perfectly round like a little white woodlouse.

From the prayer for protection from the world tree she showed a little while ago, she seemed to a devoted believer of the world tree religion.

In this world the world tree religion had reasonable power.

It was a religious form of monotheistic belief which influenced other countries.

More than 1000 years ago, a empire assumed the world tree religion and oppressed other regions by propagation.

The whole continent was united in no time and the Millennia Kingdom was born. That was what the inherited knowledge told me.

I could never tell the gently Yggdrasil that the faith of her was used as a tool of war.

Anyway, the world tree religion gathered believers.

But if you looked closely there were a lot believers of the world tree religion which pure and righteous heart, so not everyone might be bad.

Moving the religion of the country was the privilege of those with rank and believing in the religion were those faithful and modest living citizens.

However, the word to describe the girl was “Fanaticism”.

The figure of her rubbing the ground while praying looked pathetic to me.

“Please look up, Nyuju-san. I’m just a tree. My only merit is having lived longer than anyone and I’m just a powerless tree.”

“That... What powerlessness... , the Holy Tree is almighty! I thank you for directing words at my small existence!”

I thought that Nyuju’s words were funny.

Because the world tree was speaking to her she was rejoicing so pitifully.

Was that the form of faith the young girl was dedicated to?

Nyuju seemed to be totally digging the ground and her head was deeply rubbing against the ground.

"Nyuju-san. If you believe in me, can't you believe my words? The dragon of this generation is gentler than anyone I know and he is a gentleman with a big heart."

"Yggdrasil, you are exaggerating too much."

"No, I'm not exaggerating at all. I only spoke what I feel from the bottom of my heart."

"It's a misunderstanding. You are gentler than anyone else and have the biggest heart."

"Ara? The one with the misunderstanding seemed to be you roommate-san."

Yggdrasil and I were laughing together while Nyuju watched aghast.

Her eyes were like a child whose important thing was taken away... , no, it was more like a child abandoned by her mother.

Those wide blue eyes shed tears.

The mouth was left open as if she was taking a deep breath of air.

"I-I! I have lived for the sake of the world tree till now!"

And suddenly the girl began to shout.

"To defeat the evil dragon and save the world tree! That's why! That's why I have lived until now!"

Such severe words were spun by the mouth of the little girl.

"To defeat the dragon even at the cost of my life! To defeat the evil dragon! That's why I have lived until now!"

Was this how the young girl always was?

She was only eleven or twelve years old and I didn't know what kind of life she had lived so far.

“To defeat the dragon, to save the world tree, so..., I was told...”

Brainwashing. Would be the word to describe it.

Since long ago it was said that the mind of children were weak and it was easy to be washed away and dyed in different colors.

Why, I didn't understand how defeating me would save Yggdrasil, but it must have been the sole truth for the girl.

“The dragon is an evil creature..... Cunning, powerful, cruel and it's only possible to defeat it with the Spear of Valkyria... , that's why, I...”

...Therefore you took up the ancient weapon...?

I thought that the girl was fused with the ancient weapon by force, but reality was crueler.

For a young girl to voluntarily decide to lay down her life, wasn't that crueler?

“Yet... , Yet... Why are you saying such things world tree?”

The girl was crying.

It was easy to imagine that in her severe life only the faith to Yggdrasil continued to support her.

The girl was crying like a child clinging to her mother who was leaving her.

The insane faith of Nyuju dyed the air and earth near Yggdrasil in sadness.

After staying silent for a while Yggdrasil spoke to the girl with a gentle voice.

“Nuju-san..... I have a request.”

“Request” to those words the girl opened her eyes wide and nodded. “Yes! Yes!” And she looked like a hungry dog that wagged its tail while waiting for the next words.

“With roommate-san... , with the dragon of this generation, will you spend a day together with him? If you spend a day together you will surely understand that roommate-san isn’t an evil dragon.”

The girl’s eyes opened wide in surprise.

After looking at me with eyes of despair she shifted back to Yggdrasil.

“My request... , will you accept it?”

Nyuju had no other choice than to faithfully nod.

While she was nodding I could see tears dropping to the ground.

The girl didn’t look up and only nodded while looking at the ground.

“(Roommate-san, I’m sorry for doing this without your permission. If possible..., this girl...)”

“(Ah, leave it to me. Yggdrasil)”

I understood what Yggdrasil was about to say. I also thought that the pitiful girl couldn’t be left alone.

Somehow, couldn’t the girl’s tears be stopped?

Please, couldn’t this girl laugh?

“Nyuju. Can you use magic to fly?”

Nyuju affirmed by nodding her head while looking at the ground.

“I don’t have any urgent business at the moment. So is there a place you want to go?”

To my words the girl nodded her head,

“I want to go to a water place. Because I want to wash my body and clothes.”

She answered so with a trembling and low voice.

“Fumu..., I don’t mind...”

I thought about it for a while. The girl didn’t have clothes to change.

The water in the river was cold though it was summer. To begin with, what did she intend to wear after washing her clothes?

Looking down on this small girl I was incidentally reminded of my friend Harpy who was the same size. I remembered then.

“That’s a good idea, you should borrow some clothes from my friend.”

“Friend...?”

The girl looked up for the first time. She looked at me suspiciously while raising an eyebrow.

“Do you find it strange that a dragon has friends? Child of man. You don’t have friends?”

The girl didn’t answer my question.

It was no surprise, after all the girl seemed to have lived a severe life until now. Otherwise she wouldn’t have chosen to be the user of the ancient weapon at such an age...

Besides the pitiful fanaticism towards Yggdrasil she had nobody to support her.

“Then let me guide. Follow me.”

Thus I took Nyuju to Harpy’s house.

Nearly two hours had already passed since Nyuju disappeared into Harpy’s yurt.

While I had my back turned towards the yurt I strained my ears all the time.

I heard noises and I sometimes Nyuju’s voice but they weren’t fighting so time passed peacefully.

Then I heard the sound of the yurt door fluttering.

Harpy and Nyuju stood there when I turned around.

“Fumu..., it looks good”

Nyuuju was wearing clothes with a bright colored racial pattern from the harpy race. These clothes looked girlish compared to her battle clothes.

Harpy and human. They were of a different race but they looked like sisters because of their same height and similar clothes.

“(You took your time Harpy. Was there any problem?)”

“(Yes, dragon-san! The size of the clothes fit Nyuju!)”

Where was the problem there, though it made no sense, so instead of expressly asking again I smiled and nodded at Harpy as if I understood.

As for Nyuju, she was restless and her gaze was wandering around, but the distance to Harpy was small. She seemed to have no bad feelings towards the Harpy.

“Then let’s go towards the sky today as a reward, Harpy.”

She understood my intention for a second flight. Harpy flapped her wings and flew up and firmly clung to my neck.

“Well, Harpy and me will go for a walk in the sky for a while, do you want to join us? Nyuju.”

After shifting her gaze between me and Harpy for a while she then refused.

“...well, I will wait here for a while.”

I didn’t force her either. To her I’m still the “Evil dragon”.

I opened my wings and took off towards the sky, but then the weight disappeared from my neck.

“Ah...”

White wings land in front of Nyuju. Harpy slowly reached out her hand and opened her mouth PakuPaku.

[Let's go]

She couldn't speak those words but I thought that I had surely heard them.

Nyuuji slowly reached out her hand. After their finger-tips grazed each other the two of them firmly grasped the hand.

I did not know how two people who couldn't hold a conversation spend two hours together..... But indeed, certainly [There was no problem] at all.

“Then shall we go with three people.”

I danced through the sky while feeling two weights on my neck. Harpy clung to my neck while the child clung to Harpy.

Nyuuji, did you know?

What you have obtained now. What the person is called whom your both hands are grasping.

That person is called [Friend].

## Part 4

After parting with Harpy I decided to go hunting.

“Didn’t you say you didn’t like blood and meat?”

I who declared that I was going to hunt was questioned by Nyuju with eyes like a wildcat.

“Ah, I don’t eat it. It’s for a mother and child.”

Nuju continued to stare at me dubiously.

“Maa, you’ll understand.”

I flew towards the sky.

I saw the figure of the game very well from the sky. It was the figure similar to a giant cattle which I had seen last time, but I decided for a change. Something different might be good.

I surveyed the ground. With the superior eyesight of a dragon I could even distinguish the leaves of a tree.

On the surface of a small lake I saw the shadow of a big game.

The race called lamia, would they also eat fish?

After locking onto it from the sky, I dived into the lake.

The true appearance of the shadow was a giant catfish that was the size of a human adult.

If it was this size then one should be enough. I carried the killed game and headed to the place where Lamia lived.

Nuju looked at the huge catfish for a while and only after I called out to her she

followed after me.

“Are you well? Lamia.”

“I’m well! Thanks to you I had no inconveniences.”

Her appearance confirmed that her words were true.

The giant cattle from last time had added meat to her body. The child inside of her was also growing bigger.

It wasn’t necessary to be afraid of any enemy while inside the territory of the dragon. I looked at her again after one week and her impression had softened a lot. Her beautiful long purple hair was combed and it seemed to have regained its original shine and gloss.

“Mr. dragon... , that human...?”

Lamia was able to notice Nyuju who was next to me.

Lamias were excellent at magic. She could feel the extraordinary overflowing magical power from the girl.

“Lamia, don’t worry. She is not a bad human. No harm will be done to you or your child.”

“Really, if you are saying it I will believe so.”

When I said so Lamia relaxed her guard.

Was it out of a sense of obligation to me or maybe she understood it by heart, I didn’t know which it was.

“By the way Lamia. Do you like catfish?”

When I presented the catfish to Lamia she answered “Yes” while being ashamed.

“I’m glad you like it. Then, I will return again in one week.”

After handing over the catfish I was about to leave but was stopped by Lamia.

Because she had roasted the catfish she asked whether I wanted to eat lunch with her.

Though it was a precious proposal but I was enriched by sap and had no interest in catfish.

I wanted to politely decline Lamia's proposal but I incidentally made up my mind.

"I'm good but why don't you treat this girl?"

.....

.....

"Yes, please human-san."

Lamia said so and held out a big piece to Nyuju. It was seasoned with berries, herbs, salt and pepper and the girl timidly received it.

Lamia's dish was splendid.

She skillfully filleted the catfish with an obsidian knife and skewered it. The catfish seemed to have helminthes (parasitic worms) so it wasn't good to eat it raw.

Lamia quickly made a fire with magic. The meat of the catfish on skewers was arranged in circle around the flame and it was slowly baked and smoked.

The fat dropped *PotoPoto* and the fire flared up intensely each time but it seemed that it was calculated as well. My nose was tickled by the fragrant smell every time the surface was burnt nicely by the fire.

I didn't think that the dish from Lamia was something like this. Because of that I wanted to try it too.

I had eaten sap until now but I shouldn't drink like a baby forever. Though I depended

a lot on Yggdrasil's sap at the moment, but I should be weaned a little.

Nyuju received the catfish skewer with both hands and only ate small mouthful at first but after that she frantically ate the catfish.

Was she that hungry? I thought that but it didn't seem to be the case.

Tears overflowed from the girl's eyes and fell *PoroPoro*.

Lamia silently handed another skewer to the girl who ate the skewer bare in no time.

She didn't say anything and only looked at her with gentle eyes of a mother.

"Is it delicious? Nyuju."

As an answer to my question she shook her head up and down.

"It's delicious... , it's delicious..."

She cried.

And then I understood her state and the meaning of her words delicious.

I didn't know what kind of food she had eaten so far, but it was easy to imagine that she hadn't eaten just for the pleasure of eating until now.

I waited until Nyuju had finished her second skewer and then asked Lamia.

"Lamia, is the child in your belly alright?"

"Yes, it's growing quickly thanks to you. It might even be born in a week."

"Hou! Hou! That's wonderful! Babies are joyful things!"

Lamias are ovoviviparous creatures and after laying the egg, it will be raised inside the vagina.

The child that will be born will have the same appearance as the parents. If it was her child, surely a lovely baby would be born.

"...Baby?"

Nyuju said that while looking at me and Lamia.

...Fumu, it seemed like she had misunderstood it. I tried to deny it but Lamia opened her mouth faster.

"Unfortunately, it isn't the child of Mr. dragon. I have several times thought that if it was his, I would find more happiness."

Lamia said so while smiling at me. While slightly lifting the edges of her mysterious lips.

Lamia's joke was a little too extreme for me.

"Baby, is it there?"

Nyuju's eyes were glued to Lamia's belly. Lamia's belly swelled out a lot.

"Do you want to touch it? Human-san."

"Eh? I-is it alright...?"

Lamia nodded while smiling. To let a human touch her belly with a child, Lamia already seemed to have trust in Nyuju.

Nyuju timidly patted Lamia's belly as if she was touching fragile glass.

Lamia's belly bulged out spherically and from there you could feel the mystery of life.

"Ah, just now."

"Fufufu, recently it often kicks. That vigor wasn't there before. It's all thanks to the gentle person there..... Mr. dragon too, you can touch my belly if you want."

From the opposite side of Nyuju's palm I also touch Lamia's belly with the tip of my nail.

*TonToi* light vibrations were transmitted to my nail. Indeed, it was certainly an energetic child.

"Ahh... , again, don."

Lamia's eyes looking at the girl were like a mother looking lovingly at her daughter.

## Part 5

“Nee, friends, do you have a lot?”

Nyuju asked me when we were leaving Lamia's place.

I was inwardly surprised that she asked me that but I didn't show it.

“Umu. I've been blessed with some friends.”

“So..., I see.”

Nyuju had fallen silent from then on.

What's with this conversation, it might be unexpectedly serious.

Well, what should we do next..... I could continue making the totem pole, but I want this girl to have some more experience.

When I thought so, I noticed it.

Somehow the girl was like me. The people and events I came across on the island and the desire to learn about various things.

Where should I take her and then just when I was tilting my head I heard a familiar cry from the distance.

“Kukuku... , our next business has been decided.”

“Next business?”

“Ah, my nemesis (friend) sent an invitation.”

Though Nyuju looked puzzled, my heart had already begun to dance.

“Come! Nyuju!”

Through the sky I flew towards the cry of my friend.

This was a yellow wilderness.

There in the center of the wide wilderness, with a gigantic figure comparable to mine, my rival was waiting.

“Geko geko?”

“Did you think I was frightened? Don’t be a fool. I only flew slowly because I have a companion.”

“Gekoo?”

“Ahh, I got acquainted with her yesterday. Don’t you think she would be a good umpire?”

“Geeko geko geko”

“Kukuku, you will teach me what defeat means huh? Don’t underestimate me, even if the power of my roar has lost its power due to my overweight, my melody and musical sense is still great.”

“Geeko geko geko geko”

“Ahh, let’s fight seriously like you wanted! Then let’s start Geeko! Nyuju! I ask for your judgment!”

Now, the two soul (Soul) fight begins!

**“Miin min min min Miin min min min”**

First, the prelude as a light jab, it’s a preliminary test but no corner was cut. I threw the sound and melody that had a light and lively nature at Geeko.

How’s that? Now it’s time for your cry. Your unique cry.

However, Geeko didn’t cry.

He took a deep breath and firmly shut his mouth, so that his throat puffed out Pukutto like a globefish.

(Geeko, what are you thinking?)

Though I was confused, I still need to sing more strongly. From Geeko who had shut his mouth I felt a strange pressure.

(The song, must not stop)

What was Geeko going to do, though I couldn't guess it, but if I relaxed my guard, I would be done for. I was overcome with a JiriJiri feeling of impatience.

**"Miin min min min! Miin min min min!"**

I could only go on the offensive. I sang an attack at Geeko with my best effort.

Geeko was looking at me while grinning and held both his hands to his puffed out throat.

Truth reversal (No way) !?

And I finally understood what Geeko was going to do.

**Pon Pon Pon**

Geeko began to beat his throat which was swollen to the limit alternately with both hands.

(This... , it's a drum!)

Geeko matched my cry with a force and rhythm like from my cheek and throat pouch which were like a drum.

**Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko**

Moreover it wasn't just any drum.

The rhythm and sound created by Geeko sounded like a prayer to the earth, it tempted

the brain into a trance and the melody was from an old time.

This sound, the deep dragon knowledge knew it.

“Geeko you! It’s a Djembe<sup>1</sup>!”

Geeko only grinned at my question and continued to the Djembe sound from his cheek pouch with increased speed.

The cheek below his chin, like playing a piano, was clapped while changing position. The drum which should lack variety, he was able to change rhythm and sound at will.

What was the Djembe, it was a kind of drum from the southeast continent of the island where the dragon lived.

It was used for folk music while beating the drum with both hands without using a drumstick.

Not only the drumhead but part of the trunk was also used and creating sound and rhythm from its whole body was its feature. It was native to the southern continent and was used for playing music for night long festivals.

The audience was charmed by the “Good behavior” and unlike songs, the music appealed directly and made one’s heart throb. There was no other percussion instrument as troublesome as this.

## **Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko**

It was the soul of the native people that live under the sun in the wilderness and the sound that shook the earth.

My monotonous cry was pushed aside by Geeko’s performance in an instant.

I didn’t know that Geeko was a master of the Djembe.

Then I realized it. Geeko had gone easy on me so far.

I thought Geeko could only cry, but he had an ace which exceeded my imagination.

When in a one on one fight the number of hands was important. Especially in a fight

where both parties were equal.

With a change of hand, how would you disturb the pace of your opponent, it was the path to victory in a one on one music confrontation.

Geeko hadn't shown the Djembe to me. For a truth reversal this time, had Geeko kept the Djembe?

Because he didn't show me his trump card.....

Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko

The soul of Geeko sinks into my soul and I had the illusion as if was crushed.

“Miin min min min” (*TL: Don’t make light of me!*)

I dispelled the timid fantasy with a voice filled with spirit.

Gecko! Making light of a dragon, I will teach you that it was foolish conceit!

As the world's strongest dragon, I meet you head on with my body and soul!

Did you think you were the only one that could make part of his body into a musical instrument?

Interrupting Geeko's Djembe was a long sound. It was a sound born from noise, but it resounded through the vicinity with a unique feeling.

Once again. The left hand and now the right hand.

The source of the sound was from below collarbone of my gigantic body where my dragon nail ran and shook irregularly.

Because the nail traced the grooves that the scales produced, sound was created.

“Geeko?!”

“Do recognize it? As expected of my rival. It’s a Güiro<sup>2</sup>.”

The Güiro is a musical instrument.

It was a musical instrument that came from the southwestern continent of the island where the dragon lived.

It created burr sounds from the carved gourd and the thin stick rubbed against it. If the stick hits the groove “Gari” the sound created by the musical instrument completely changes.

The sound became a high cha when rubbed fast and a low gi when rubbed slowly. Though it wasn’t suitable for creating high pitch sounds, but the audience was invited by the light rhythm which was different from the drum which was a percussion instrument.

With my fat body echoes couldn’t be produced, but by matching my magic with my nail scrubbing my nails, I succeeded in creating a powerful sound that exceeded a genuine Güiro.

Ordinary scales and nails wouldn’t be able to endure this intense friction, but I’m a true dragon.

Don’t underestimate the scales and nails of a true dragon.

Sweat began to appear on Geeko.

It was folk music against folk music.

If Geeko used the sound from southeastern continent then I would choose the sound from the southwestern continent.

The scales at the part were human’s nipple would be, I strum them with my five nails like a guitar.

**Giiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii Cha Cha Cha**

**Giiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii Cha Cha Cha**

Alternating both hands, while moving them up and down, sometimes long, sometimes short. The Güiro of the dragon that contained magic resounded through the wilderness.

However, Geeko wasn't a person to surrender so easily. He challenged my Güiro with his whole body.

### **Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko**

### **Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko**

We naturally perform and additionally to the music we moved by a three beat rhythm.

The right front, left front, back left front, right front, back

One and a half step forward and one step back and the distance between Geeko and me shrank.

The tempo rose steadily.

My chest and Geeko's throat.

Both hands at almost the same time, but the rhythm and sound were created while alternating them.

### **Giiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii Cha Cha Cha**

### **Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko**

The tempo continued to rise and the two of us transformed while playing.

### **Giiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii Cha Cha Cha**

### **Pon Pokon Pokon Pokokokoko**

The sounds faced each other, formed a lump and it wasn't possible to distinct whether the sound was made from me or Geeko.

The sound intertwined, blended into each other and accelerated.

Reaching the maximum speed, where the muscles of both arms were screaming, while performing dance steps, the shoulder of Geeko and me who kept moving forward finally touched.

Then we realized that we had advanced to a position where we knocked into each other.

(It looks like this is the place!)

I produced a long scratch with both my nails.

**Goooooooooooooo!**

**Pokokokokokokokokokokokoko!**

Geeko read my intent and matched me exactly.

**Cha! Cha! Cha!**

**Pon! Pon! Pon!**

Three sounds of the end came in succession at the same time.

And the silence of the wilderness was once again revived.

After Geeko and me high fived with our right hands, we firmly clasped each other's hand.

Harmony of the moment while we praised each other's good fight.

However, it was a fight, so a victor and loser had to be decided.

Geeko and I turned towards the umpire Nyuju at the same time.

“Nyuju! Who won!?”

“Geeko?!”

Nyuju who I asked to be the umpire was covering both her ears for some reason and she was burying her head in her knees.

## Part 6

“...Wh-what was that? That?”

Nyuju timidly removed the hands that covered her ears.

Was the trans music slightly too early for her...?

It was often difficult with art.

Art is a “Funny thing”, it didn’t mean that it had to be good.

Art was something the creator gives the other side so that they could walk together towards the future.

With a new work, the audience was made to discover a new world. And then the new world gave birth to new works.

The creator and receiver, they advance while intertwined. That was the way of art.

“That thing was called music. Nyuju”

“M-music...?”

Poor thing, did she grow up without knowing music?

Then let’s teach her. What is called music.

In the world of art “After talk” included the explanation of the work.

Geeko and I, the two of decided to teach Nyuju music.

“Okay, let’s start at the beginning with music.”

“Geekokokoko”

“...and by inventing the musical notation the music faces further development...”

“Geekokokoko”

“...however, traditional music without musical notation exist in the world...”

“Geekokokoko”

“...the more it spreads out and music mixes together, the more it changes...”

“Geekokokoko”

“...even if you say sound comes from the mouth, there are hundred kinds of musical instruments in the world...”

“...and that is music. Did you understand it?”

“Geekoko?”

“I-I don’t understand it!”

Geeko’s and my history lecture about music seemed to have been too difficult for the girl.

...fumu, how troublesome. The class to know what was music was already difficult, then how on earth should we teach her music?

When I was at my wit’s end my chest was strongly hit by Geeko with a gesture to leave it to him.

“Geekokokoko”

“Indeed, practice makes the master... right? It certainly has a point. Umu, I’ll leave it to you Geeko.”

Geeko stepped forward in front of Nyuju, pushed his face out and puffed out his throat like a while ago.

To the huge cheek pouch that suddenly extended before her, Nyuju flinched and took two steps back.

“Nyuu, there is no need to be afraid of it. It’s a musical instrument. Now, beat the throat bag of Geeko as hard as possible.”

“B-beat...? Th-this...?”

“Don’t worry, Geeko is strong. He won’t feel pain even if you beat it with all your power.”

Geeko affirmed my words by nodding powerfully.

“Now beat it! It’s been decided! Don’t hold back!”

Though Nyuu hesitated for a while, I kept encouraging her “Now! Beat! Beat it! As hard as possible!” and she closed her eyes and moved her right hand.

The palm was swung down towards the front and was caught by Geeko’s throat bag which was stretched out thinly.

Ponnn

The sound resounded strongly.

“Th-that?”

Nyuu was surprised at the sound that came from Geeko.

“Was... was it painful?”

Geeko who had closed its mouth to swell his throat bag, only shook his head left and right while smiling and showed the girl that her anxiety was unnecessary.

“Hey? Nyuu. Was it interesting? Now, beat it some more.”

Nyuu once again stroke it while alternating the left and right hand.

Ponnn Ponnn

These two sounds were created this time. Nyuu compared both of her hands and Geeko’s throat bag with wide round eyes.

“When it hit it, I can’t hear the painful sound...”

“...umu, because Geeko’s cheeks are a musical instrument. It makes different sounds. The thing called the hand isn’t only there to hurt, it can also make good things.”

Had she been beaten? It wasn’t necessary for me to know it. Rather than reminding her of painful things I rather want her to know happiness.

“Happiness...?”

“Well, beat it some more. Beat it however you like it best.”

Nyuju nodded and,  
Ponnn Ponnn Ponnn Ponnn Ponnn  
With Ponn sounds she continued hitting Geeko’s throat bag.

A light sound resounded. And by Nyuju hands, sound was born.

Then this time, she began to beat it at different locations with another rhythm.

Whenever the beaten place changed, whenever she changed the rhythm, Nyuju was just surprised at the changing music and melody.

Did she notice? A smile had appeared on her lips.

Her feelings right now were [Fun].

And for one hour Nyuju continued to beat the drum absorbedly.

However, her physical strength might already be at her limit. After the last sound ebbed away she sat on the ground fuu fuu panted heavily.

A large amount of sweat ran down her small body.

“Geekoko?”

Geeko who was the musical instrument for the girl all the time opened his mouth.

The girl didn't understand Geeko's word and turned towards be and requested help.

"Was it fun? I was listening to it"

When Nyuju looked back at Geeko "Un... Un!" she nodded many times.

"Geekoko"

"It was good."

From the nodding girl's eyes, today countless tears had already been spilled.

It was said that babies who cried well will grow up healthy, but did that no longer apply to the girl who wasn't a baby?

When I saw the tears spilling from the girl I suddenly had a thought.

"Isn't your throat dry? Nyuju."

"Ah... , u-un..."

"Is that so, I you want I can make elixir anytime, do you want to drink?"

"E-elixir!? That... , the elixir doesn't exist!"

At the words elixir Nyuju had greatly raised her voice in denial.

Though it wasn't unreasonable. The refining method had been lost thousands of years ago.

"The elixir exist. Didn't you know? It's the only means to separate from ancient weapons."

Ny whole body was startled and looked at her right arm. The ancient weapon which was fused with her body, she seemed to have finally remembered it.

"The only way to release a person from the ancient weapon and revive the soul is the elixir.....

"That's right. So you knew about it?"

I affirmed her words which were spoken in blank surprise. Nyuju looked into my eyes.

Today, though I was with the girl all day, for the first time now, she firmly looked into my eyes.

“...Well, for the elixir the leaf of the world tree and the blood of a true dragon are needed and it can then be refined with complicated process...”

“Oh... , I-I...”

The girl’s eyes swam in confusion. She noticed the contradiction of the evil dragon having saved her.

“You don’t have to do anything so troublesome, I have found a simpler refining method.”

“I... , so far... the evil dragon... , all this time”

“Yggdrasil’s sap and in addition my body fluids...”

“That... , so-sorry... , so... , so”

I picked up an Attenborough’s pitcher plant which grew close by.

Jobobobobo

“Well, this is the elixir. Drink as much as you like.”

“So-so... , so, Hell Fire! From the purgatory I release the flames that will devour this abominable world!”

(TLN: *Gomen* = sorry, *gokuenyo* = Hell Fire. Only works in Japanese)

Huge flames were shot from the girl’s hand and the Attenborough’s pitcher plant with the elixir was vaporized.

## Part 7

When Nyuju finally settled down the sun was already going down to the west. It wasn't sunset yet but the sunrays were already dimmer than during daytime.

"...fumu, what is dirty, I can't understand it at all. Since I was born I only ate Yggdrasil's sap. And the elixir created from Yggdrasil's sap couldn't be dirty."

"...About that, it's fine already..... because it saved my life..."

Though she said that but the girl still was somehow dissatisfied. Despite being a child, a woman's heart was difficult.

"Then, should I finally lead to my home?"

"Home? Return to the world tree?"

"No, the hollow of Yggdrasil is a temporary home. Currently I'm making a new home."

Nyuuju and I bid farewell to Geeko. Geeko cried "Geeko" as goodbye.

"See you later!... or so"

Geeko was waving his hand and Nyuju greatly waved her hand back.

In front of the gate of the nest the two giants were standing like guards.

Two large men with a height comparable to me. It might be her first time seeing the giant race. Nyuju exclaimed in surprise "Those are so huge men!" from the sky. The two giants also noticed us immediately.

"Oh ryuu-sama, we were waiting."

"H-he-hello, r-ry-ryuu-sama..... o-oh? T-th-that little girl is who?"

I introduced the girl to Fafner and Fasolt.

The giants “She looks like a baby, menkoi, menkoi!” and laughed heartily.

“What is menkoi?” the girl asked my quietly. “It means cute” I told her. She then hid her face while looking down.

“By the way you two, do you have some business today?”

They had been waiting so they might have some business.

Fafner and Fasolt “Ah, It is so” said so and took out a huge square box.

“It’s a housewarming gift.”

“R-ry-ryuu-sama can put in his treasure, i-isn’t it just right?”

The thing that the two carried had a height that reached my shoulder and was certainly a huge chest.

How big was the tree that it was carved from? The countless annual rings drew a complicated design and it has unique smell while having a bright luster.

Moreover, not only was the outside beautiful I was also very functional.

Attached to it were also about 20 drawers and it could be used to separate treasures accordingly.

An exquisite bronze work was made on the metal fitting of the handle.

“This... , it’s wonderful! This chest is perfect for my treasures! Fasolt, Fafner! Thank you! Thank you!”

Though I wasn’t interested in the treasures the preceding dragon left behind but when I thought about putting treasures into this chest I was somehow WakuWaku excited. No one could make such an excellent article besides them.

“That?! Was made? By the giants?”

Nyuju was surprised, how many times had it been already today? When I looked at the chest I sighed in admiration.

“Can I look inside it?”

And of course the two giants nodded.

I opened all the drawers of the chest one by one and slowly and carefully looked at every corner of it.

Nyuju saw my state “Are you looking for something?” asked me and I answered “I’m just confirming that there is nothing”.

Umu. Foreign matter (Lizardmen) wasn’t inside it.

And then I once again thanked the two.

“By the way ryuu-sama, how is the progress on the totem pole?”

“Ah, I had been a little busy these past days. I made only a little progress. If you are fine with it, want to take a look?”

“I-it’s our pleasure.”

The image of Fasolt and Fafner were the foundation of the totem pole and I advanced under the guidance of the two.

Nyuju’s blue eyes were staring at us while be advanced with our work.

“Do you want to try? Nyuju”

Nyuju hesitated a little but then nodded.

“Fumu... there is plenty of excess wood from my work...”

“Ryu-sama, the little girl can’t carve the wood with her nails.”

I didn’t use a chisel for sculpting. The nails of a dragon were sharper than any chisel, that’s why a tool wasn’t necessary. As for the work tools that hanged at the waist of the giants, each of them was the size of Nyuju’s body, so it was impossible for her to use them.

While I was worrying about it Fafner began to speak.

“E-e-even the little girl c-can make something with clay.”

The two giants began to dig up the soil on the spot.

When the hole was at knee depth of the giants “This. Here” they said and scooped up a gray matter with their hands.

The lumps of clay was bigger than Nyuju’s body and it was put in front of her in large quantities.

“Even the hands of the little girl can make something out of this.”

“Y-y-you should make whatever you want.”

Ny whole seemed to see clay for the first time, she timidly touched it with her forefinger and was surprised by its elasticity and softness.

However, after that she didn’t move in front of the clay at all.

“What’s wrong? Is there any problem?”

The girl looked up at me with eyes of a lost child.

“What I like, what should I make?”

...fumu. That question hit me like lightning.

I couldn’t give Nyuju an answer to that question.

The dragon was the creature with the most knowledge in the world. However that wasn’t all.

If you said part of wisdom was wit then I was inexperienced like a child.

However, I thought it was fine now. Because those parts I’m missing, my experienced friends will fill in for me.

“F-f-first p-late and c-cup, t-they are easy and g-good.”

“Cup? Cups can be made with this?... This?”

Ny whole looked at the lump of gray clay with an expression that didn’t believe it.

Hou, she didn't know those were made of clay?

"This soil. It becomes hard if you bake it and changes into the cups and plates that you know of. Isn't that so? Fasolt, Fafner."

The two giants nodded with a smile.

I tore two lumps of clay of the size of Nyuju's fist and gave it to her. She was then seriously trying to make something.

The giants "You should knead it more" said such and instructed her at the basic things and let Nyuju made whatever she liked.

As epected, Nyuju had made two cups.

Though the cup was malformed and distorted, it had a certain flavor.

"Two, I made them."

The girl answered with blushing cheeks.

"That..., one for Harpy-san as thanks. The clothes, I borrowed."

"...Indeed, she surely will be pleased too."

So that the shape of the two cups Nyuju wasn't destroyed I slowly put them on a board and took them home. After it dried it needs to be baked in a kiln.

After telling them that we would come and color the cups the two giants heartily laughed as always and returned to their atelier.

After the figures of the two people was out of sight and we were alone Nyuju said.

"Friends..., there are a lot."

Nyuu seemed lonely and I answered in a dignified manner.

"Fumu, the number of friends you have isn't much less than mine."

Did she understand the meaning of my words? Nyuju looked up at me with blank eyes.

“Didn’t you notice? My friends you have met, they are already your friends too.”

“Ah...”

“And you Nyuju. I also think of you as my friend”

Tear were shed PoroPoro from the girl’s eyes.

She really a child that cried a lot. She cried while looking down.

The pleasant long day was over and dusk ruled the world.

It gets cold at night despite summer. It might be somewhat cold for humans.

I cut some waste from making the totem pole and decided to collect some branches to make a fire.

A line of smoke rose into the purple sky. In the sky the stars were already glittering.

“Prophecy... , was it wrong...”

While sitting and staring at the flames Nyuju suddenly said that.

“What prophecy?”

My question, I was worried whether she would answer or not, but though I worried for a while she then slowly began to speak.

“It has been ten years already. The miko of clairvoyance prophesied it. An evil dragon that would appear and it would destroy the world.”

“Fumu? I don’t want to destroy the world, there wouldn’t be any sap then.”

“That, yes, I understood that..... Therefore, was the prophecy wrong..... Everyone... , makes some mistakes..... Also... , there is a continuation of the prophecy.”

“Hou? What is the continuation?”

After a long silence Nyuju finally squeezed it out.

“...instead of the ruin of the world, the world tree would be destroyed. With the dragon.”

“WHAT!?”

I didn't mishear Nyuju's words.

What did she say? Yggdrasil would die?

“Ah, but, it's different! The dragon hadn't been decided yet. There was also a part of the prophecy where I didn't understand its meaning.”

“Nuju! Tell me! What was the prophecy!?”

Whether I died or not wasn't important.

Yggdrasil would die.

Those words cause fear in my mind.

Nuju said many times “Prophecies don't come true all the time” and then began to recite the prophecy left behind by the miko of clairvoyance.

“A calamity will arrive from beyond the world, the shell will break and all the stars will be devoured. The Holy tree reverses fate. The blood that flows from the star becomes the blood of the Holy Tree and the death of the start changes to the death of the Holy Tree. And humans will receive eternal prosperity from the fertilizer from the remains of the Holy Tree.”

Those had a strong impact on me. I couldn't move and forgot to breathe.

“Ah, but I didn't understand what beyond the world meant! The miko of clairvoyance also didn't understand its meaning! Because the time of the prediction matched with the life span of the dragon! A new dragon will be born, that became the story..... But as I said a while ago, the prophecy isn't absolute.”

Nuju became desperate while finding excuses. [Prophecies aren't absolute] Nyuju had said so, but I understood that the prophecy was true.

“It's correct. Nyuju, that... the disaster...”

What came from beyond the world, one might not understand the meaning of the words except someone that knew that different worlds existed.

“...the disaster, it's me.”

## Part 8

“From beyond the world... , I came from there.”

I didn’t talk about different worlds. And it wasn’t necessary to talk about my past life as a cicada.

“The disaster that comes from beyond the world, it might point at me who came from a different world.

It was a fact. The fact that I was the disaster.

“I who didn’t eat meat or blood and only drank Yggdrasil’s sap every day. So much that I became fat.”

I opened my palms and looked at my fat and ugly body.

“The prophecy, I would suck the world tree dry. It has to be it.”

Nyuju’s face was colored in despair. Nyuju had a strong faith. She would surely grieve if the world tree died.

“Nyuju, don’t worry. If I understand the cause then I only have to cut it off at the base.”

“Cutting it off at the base...”

Nyuju looked at me with eyes filled with even more despair.

She couldn’t imagine a method to kill a creature that even the ancient weapon couldn’t kill.

My body that was nearly immortal because of the nearly unlimited elixir.

“What, I will die too if beheaded. The scales of a dragon are the hardest material in the world but the nails of a dragon and cut it.”

“N-no!”

Nyuju stopped me by clinging to me. Though I was about to cut off my head right here..... fumu. Such a thing, I shouldn't do it in front of a child.

"Then let's go to the sea..... Could you let go? Nyuju."

"Nyuju only shook her head right and left while crying.

Why didn't she let go? I was the creature that would kill her important Yggdrasil.

To you I'm the evil dragon that would kill Yggdrasil.

"Please wait my lord! The prophecy, is it really true?"

A dignified voice stopped me. It was clear like water, a cool voice.

The chest the giants brought for housewarming. The voice could be heard from there.

"My lord. The prophecy, isn't it possible that you have misinterpreted it?"

From the gap of a drawer that slightly opened. A pure white hand emerged.

The chest that should be empty from what I confirmed. I knew the person who crawled out from it.

"I see..., was it a double bottom?"

Through the narrow gap the lizardman miko slowly emerged.

With only her upper body emerging from the drawer she looked at Nyuju from a high position.

"Nyuju was it? About the whole story, how reliable and accurate are the prophecies?"

Nyuju was popeyed for a while at the sudden appearance of a third party but she answered timidly.

"This generation..., the miko of clairvoyance didn't have a prophecy..., is what I heard."

"Then you might have misinterpreted the prophecy. For my lord to destroy Yggdrasil,

such a thing is just ridiculous.”

The lizardman miko easily cut off the prophecy from the human miko.

“Lizardman miko. I certainly have no misinterpreted it. The object of the prophecy. That is myself.”

“I understand your nature. My lord, you are a mass of happiness and couldn’t be a disaster.”

She said to and cut off my words in an instant. Where did her confidence come from? Her golden eyes held a strong light and stared me in the eye.

“I, though I don’t have the power to see the future but I can feel the power of life that a living beings has. Since you appeared in this world, there hasn’t been any signs of Yggdrasil’s vitality declining at all. Instead it shone with joy every day.”

I suddenly recalled that a mystic power dwelled inside the lizardman miko and I remembered that Fasolt and Fafner had told me about it.

“In the first place, even with my lord’s magnificent body, compared to Yggdrasil you are like a cicada at a huge tree. To consume Yggdrasil’s sap until she dried out, do you think that it is possible?”

I finally noticed after she mentioned it. Yggdrasil dying had fairly confused my head. The cicada would surely drink a lot of sap, but the tree wouldn’t die. What was sap, it was refined by sun light and water from the earth every day.

“Cicada” I looked at the lizardman miko who used that word. The golden eyes stared straight back at me.

She had the power to see life. Could she even see the color of the soul? Knowing that my soul was that of a cicada, did she trust me and believe in that?

“...However, having my lord suck the body fluids... I’m jealous. I’m jealous. Ah, I’m so jealous.”

Fumu..., was it like that?

“Ex-excuse me! Lizardman miko-sama! The true meaning of the prophecy! Do you know the true nature of the disaster?”

Nyuju who kept silent suddenly raised her voice. The eyes were no longer filled with despair. They were now filled with a light of hope.

“No, I can’t think of anything. However...”

The lizardman miko glanced in the direction of the center of the island for a moment.

“Someone that understands the real meaning of the prophecy, I have an idea.”

“Is that true?! Lizardman miko! Who?! Who is it?!”

The lizardman miko breathed out long sigh. The vertical eyes peculiar to reptiles turned towards me.

“My lord..., you really don’t understand a woman’s heart.”

Her voice had a hint of amazement and a hint of disappointment, a really complicated thing. After that she changed her tone a gentle tone and said.”

““My best regards for this short period of time”” Even if you died you could be helpful for someone, it certainly was a wonderful thing” and also “ If we no longer meet each other anymore, could you not forget me?”“

“That...”

It wasn’t necessary to ask whose words those were. It were her words.

Her words, I always treasured them and I had carried them in my heart.

“Yggdrasil would surely have noticed it long ago. Or, it might had been her destiny since the beginning.”

I realized that I was stupid. Yggdrasil had given me hints many times. She had tried to tell me.

Her death, her destiny.

Night had already fallen completely. And flames from the burning flames lit up the place.

“My lord, return to Yggdrasil. Yggdrasil should know about all of it.”

“Ahh! Let’s go back to her.”

The three of us headed to Yggdrasil’s place. To return even a bit faster, Nyuju and the lizardman miko were on my back.

Under the great summer triangle my wings flew through the night in a hurry.

While flying I suddenly had a trifling question.

“That reminds me lizardman miko. Why do you know about Yggdrasil’s words?”

I was certain that she wasn’t there in my memories.....

“I’m good at concealment.”

...That’s right, I certainly knew about.

I intended to shook her off to the ground but then I recalled that Nyuju was also on my back so I stopped.

My new nest wasn’t too far away from the place Yggdrasil was. I arrived at Yggdrasil’s place in five minutes by flying.

When Yggdrasil saw Nyuju getting off my back “It’s great. The two of you became friendly. It’s really great.” And she was really pleased.

Was there any being as gentle as you?

“Yggdrasil.”

“Yes, what is it? Roommate-san.”

Why did she have such a bright voice even though she knew that she would die.

“I heard a prophecy from Nyuju. A prophecy concerning you...”

I thought that the whole air surrounding Yggdrasil completely changed. The prophecy that the miko of clairvoyance left behind, those words, I recited them.

“ [A calamity will arrive from beyond the world, the shell will break and all the stars will be devoured. The Holy tree reverses fate. The blood that flows from the star becomes the blood of the Holy Tree and the death of the start changes to the death of the Holy Tree. And humans will receive eternal prosperity from the fertilizer from the remains of the Holy Tree]… Yggdrasil. The meaning of the prophecy, do you know it?”

How long did this silence last?

In the long, long silence you could the cry of the early bell cricket (*Homoeogryllus japonicas*) and no breathing could be heard.

In this frozen time Yggdrasil answered “Yes” in a small voice.

“Then, the disaster… , what is it?”

After another long silence Yggdrasil told me who the one was that would bring ruin to her.

“The star, it will fall. A red star”

When I looked up at the night sky, the red star inside the great summer triangle shone more brightly than yesterday.

(TLN: *as some of you have guessed its meteor-chan making a visit~*)

# Chapter 7

## The cicada's cry resounds throughout the world

### Part 0

“Will you die Yggdrasil?”

“Yes.”

“The star, will it fall?”

“Yes.”

“You will just accept it?”

“Yes.”

“For all living beings on this star only you will die?”

“Yes.”

“When is it?”

“In seven days.”

“Is there no other way?”

“...I'm sorry.”

“Why?! Why you?! Why should you be sacrificed?!”

“Because I, to be in this place, was born into this world.”

## Part 1

*Everyone, can you see it? Its brightness has increased and it glitters.  
Among the light of the stars, the ascending figure, can you see it? (Wagner)*

*Gari Gari* with the sound the form slowly took shape. I was already accustomed at using my nails.

I understood very well the characteristic of a tree. Where was it hard and where soft? What should I take note of? I gradually learned this art.

Three days had already passed since that day.

Although I was clumsy but I continued sculpting the totem pole very day and I became used to it.

Favorable. Everything was advancing smoothly.

There was one problem, that was the model.

“What’s wrong? Why aren’t you smiling? Harpy, I want to carve your laughing figure.”

Harpy tried to force a smile, but her cheeks were twisted painfully and the lovely smile like an apple wasn’t shown.

There was no other way, I could only recall her smile from my memories. Because I want to make the best totem pole.

“The world tree is very sad.”

Those cold hard words were thrown at my back while I was sculpting.

“Ohh Nyuju? That’s great. I just completely finished the image of harpy today. Next I intend to carve you. Tomorrow, will you come here?”

“I said that the world tree is very sad!”

“Is that so... then please tell her that there is no reason to be sad.”

Giritto, the sound as if two stones were rubbed together.

It seemed the sound was coming from the pretty girl's mouth who was gritting her teeth.

"You should say it yourself! You do this every single day! Why?!... why won't you meet the world tree?!"

"...it's decision of a weak man. I decided that I won't meet her until the last day."

After that day I didn't meet Yggdrasil.

The summer sun shone down and my throat *KaraKara*. From the water place I was drinking water.

Yggdrasil was in the direction of the rocky mountain to my back. The huge rocky mountain completely hid my body from the world tree.

Yggdrasil couldn't see me here and I couldn't see her from here.

"On the last day, will you meet her?"

"Ah, I promised."

"...do you think that's alright?"

"I will keep my promised without fail."

Nyuju's eyes looked at me as I answered dignified. Nyuju glared at me and grinded her teeth again and then disappeared in the direction where Yggdrasil was.

If I turned around I would see Harpy who I asked to laugh to be crying instead.

Nyuju the next model, the following day she didn't come.

Five days had already passed since I last saw Yggdrasil.

The red star had become so big that other creatures beside a dragon could see it. The remaining time was only a little.

Before my eyes, Fasolt, Fafner, Geeko, Lamia, Harpy and Nyuju were stacked up on their necks.

“Fumu. It’s nearly finished.”

The smiling faces of everyone was piled up. But recently no one had shown these smiles to me...

My friends all had beautiful smiles. Therefore I carved the smiles of everyone I liked.

Though she was no good, but she was my friend. I turned to direction of my nest and said.

“Ahh, I’m thirsty. Should I drink water?”

And after about three minutes I went to the drinking fountain in front of my nest.

The drinking fountain was directly dug up from the ground my Geeko himself and a large amount of water sprung forth and because the water was bubbling like carbonated water the bottom couldn’t be seen.

Fresh natural water could be drunk anytime, it was a wonderful drinking fountain. The cold underground water that sprung forth would surely quench your thirst.

By the way, the lizardman race couldn’t breathe underwater. So at most they could hide in the water for five minutes.

While waiting for a while a white head floated up.

“Fumu... , you were still here? Lizardman miko.”

“I was thirsty. My lord.”

.....

I sculpted the face of the lizardman miko. While she was sitting on a rock she showed me a cool smile.

When a model cooperated the work was also progressing. *GariGari, GariGari*, the form was made in a moment.

“...you aren’t smiling properly.”

“My lord just has to tell me to laugh. It would be the greatest pleasure in the world.”

“...is that so, I’m the object of your worship.”

I remembered Nyuju’s fanaticism towards Yggdrasil when she woke up. She would anything if ordered. She would even die with pleasure if ordered.

The one worshiped and the worshipper, what was their relations? Friends, could you call them that?

I continued to silently carve the totem pole.

“My lord. What are you thinking about, this trifling me wouldn’t be able to guess it and I have to right to say this either...”

The model who had remained silent suddenly opened her mouth.

“I believe in you. Everything you do is correct.”

“Is that so...”

I didn’t understand the meaning of her words. However the blind belief and fanaticism, I could feel it.

“...however, only this time, would you allow this woman some selfishness...”

The lizardman miko who didn’t move while smiling, suddenly prostrated herself

pressed herself on the ground.

"Please, I beg of you, don't throw away your life! Please, I beg of you! The reason is that I love you. Please! I beg of you!"

After the lizardman miko had said that she then sat on the stone again while smiling.

Her body was lightly dirtied with soil.

To her wish I could only remain silent.

I only progressed with my work.

The sixth day. The totem was nearly completed.

I only had to decide what I should carve on the top.

Taiki Yggdrasil.

I will carve her figure on the top of the totem pole.

I relaxed and imagined her beautiful figure which towered in the sky.

Yearning, desire and respect, I poured everything into the last sculpture and finally finished it on the sixth night.

...however, something was still unsatisfactory even though it was completed.

Suddenly I had a funny idea.

At Yggdrasil's trunk I carved a small protrusion there.

This should be sufficient.

By adding the figure of a dragon that clung to the taiki like a cicada, the totem pole was completed.

On the morning of the seventh day I woke up before the night faded.

The red star wearing the big circle of the moon shone ominously.

The last day.

First of all I went to the rocky mountain.

The black mountain I was asked to do something about by Fasolt and Fafner. It was the rock that wasn't even slightly damaged a week ago.

I took aim.

I took a great breath and mixed the air with magic inside of me. The sound that was born from the echo in my stomach rose by several hundred times.

This was my original roar.

“MIIIN!”“

The roar smashed into the rock mountain.

After the cloud of dust disappeared, what reflect in my eyes was the rock mountain that was smashed to pieces.

One week ago, my body was fat but I had completely recovered now.

It was only natural. Because for these seven days I hadn't eaten anything.

My stomach which violently carved sap, only sometimes had water.

I never lost to the temptation of the sap because I never met her.

“Amazing...”

When I turned around to the voice I saw Nyuju looking up at me.

What a relief. Because of the fight last time I wanted to meet her again at the end.

“Nuju, I have a request.”

I told my wish to my friend.

“Take care of Yggdrasil. Because of me she surely will be sad.”

“That request, don’t tell... , dragon...! You!”

“Nyuju. Stay healthy.”

I was going to fly away after my last words but a high pitched voice like that of a wildcat stopped me.

“You... weren’t you just born?! Hadn’t only three weeks passed since you were born?! Why, why?!”

As for Nyuju’s words, I didn’t understand their meaning.

Because,

“Isn’t living three weeks already more than enough?”

(TLN: *He had lived 3 weeks as a cicada so for him 3 weeks are like a whole life already*)

My destination at the end had been already decided. I returned here after seven days.

When I touched Yggdrasil’s trunk a torrent of words and feeling flooded me.

“Ahh! Ahh!! It’s true! You really came! Roommate-san!”

Even though we didn’t live together anymore she still called me roommate.

“I came to say goodbye. Yggdrasil”

“Ahh,ahh,! Roommate-san! Thank you! For coming! For meeting me at the end! For saying goodbye! Thank you! Really, thank you!”

Far from blaming for not meeting her, Yggdrasil instead said thanks many times.

“Ahh! You’ve become so much thinner! For the last time, please drink as much as you like! Till you are full! To your heart’s content!”

My empty stomach had been almost drawn towards the sweet smell of the sap but I endured it.

"I don't need the sap" Yggdrasil's euphoria suddenly cooled down and she asked "Really?" with a trembling voice.

"The promise, I kept it."

"Promise...?"

"Didn't I promise? I would show it to you without fail when it is completed."

I thrust the totem right beside Yggdrasil's trunk.

"I finished it at the last minute. How is it? Isn't it good? The totem pole that I made. I had received instructions for making it."

Yggdrasil was silent for a while. Though she didn't have eyes I understood that she was staring at it.

"That... will you show me the other side? I want to firmly imprint it in my memory."

I slowly turned the totem pole that I held in my hands.

The totem pole turned round and round, another round, after finished the third round Yggdrasil said "It's alright now." and I stopped.

"Roommate-san..., to tell the truth..., what on earth should I give as thanks?"

Yggdrasil's usual calm air turned into a gentle one.

"After knowing you for three weeks. I was really, really happy"

From Yggdrasil's words I felt more than words could express.

"I'm really glad that I got to know you."

"Me too. Yggdrasil"

“Therefore roommate-san”

“Therefore Yggdrasil”

Yggdrasil's and my voice overlapped.

““I will definitely protect you”“

Yggdrasil was surprised to hear exactly the same words from my mouth.

My wings began to flap.

“Wait! Roommate-san...”

Yggdrasil couldn't talk if the trunk or roots weren't touched.

Therefore her voice didn't reach me who was flying in the sky. The wingless Yggdrasil couldn't catch me.

I noticed that I hadn't said goodbye, but it was fine already.

I rapidly flew towards the sky with the help of the dragon's magic power.

Daybreak was already here but the star shone brightly.

At the center of the great summer triangle.

I flew straight at the red star that shone ominously.

## Part 2

Thermosphere.

It was the outside layer of the atmosphere at a altitude of more than 800km from the ground.

I didn't know if you could call it part of the atmosphere anymore since the air was so thin.

Because the sun rays weren't blocked by anything, they directly burned on my body and in this high place my body blazed up like fire.

However the temperature itself was low and the air was too thin too. Such a mysterious place.

I the strongest creature on the earth, if I hadn't used wind magic to create a barrier, I would have never reached this place.

I stopped at the middle of the thermosphere.

Released from gravitation I kept rising and I would likely be thrown out into space.

In an ancient age, in the age where the ancient arms arose, there seemed to people who flew further than the thermosphere with the help of a starship, but this was my limit.

I will never let the shell of the star break.

The spherical sea and earth extended before my eyes.

And right below there was Yggdrasil that I would protect.

Yggdrasil was a tree with a height of 20.000 meters but from so far away she looked small.

Though I only noticed it because I saw her from right above, but Yggdrasil was shaped like a wineglass.

When I looked up from the trunk, Yggdrasil's branches and leaves were like a globe and at the upper part there was a giant empty hole.

Holy Grail.

That word appeared in my head.

It was a holy container that was hidden somewhere in the world.

The person who obtained it would be granted an invulnerable body and everlasting prosperity.

A great number of adventurers and kings of nation wanted it and searched for it, but still the sacred treasure wasn't found. That was the Holy Grail.

No wonder why nobody had found it.

Yggdrasil was always beautiful, but today she was special.

Yggdrasil began to gradually shine. Light rose up from her trunk, extended to the branches and covered the leaves.

The huge blue star extended before my eyes. And I understood that all the power of the star was gather to Yggdrasil.

It was the intention of the blue star.

The blood which all beings should shed, Yggdrasil would take it instead.

Yggdrasil would exchange her life to catch the red star.

What deceit!

To keep all living beings alive, the mother of all living beings had to be killed?!

Her corpse and ash would bring prosperity, so you are telling me that she was nothing but a seedbed?!

Star! Blue star! This is what I call deception!

To the green and gentle her, are you telling her to follow the red star to death?!

I looked up at the sky.

The red star was large. It grew by the moment.

The atmosphere shook.

No, it was me who was trembling.

From space, while scattering an abominable cloud, an oval red star was heading for the blue star.

It was a diameter of approximately ten kilometers.

I asked the knowledge of the old dragons. Could I overcome that?

What if it was ten kilometers? It was just like one mountain.

The dragon's roar could smash a mountain into pieces.

...and it wasn't possible. The dragon's knowledge told me.

That was dangerous. That was no good.

It was a mass of infinite violence. Its power couldn't be measured at all.

If it hit the ground, it would create a huge explosion on impact and the released energy would instantly vaporize every living being on the island where the dragon lived.

Dust and poison would be scattered into the atmosphere and the star would be covered in the coldest winter for ten years.

In these ten years all living beings on the star would die out.

Plants, humans and animals. I was also included.

The dragon's knowledge told me so.

How unreasonable!

It only said that it came from beyond the world and contained infinite energy inside its body?!

The blue star which was tens of thousands time larger would be turned to a black star of death?!

Are you saying that it would swallow everything?!

If it only destroys then I will destroy it!

A dragon was only like a pebble in front of that star. Today on this day, I realized that the last dragon would die out.

[It's alright]

I felt like I heard someone's voice. When I looked down, green liked filled her and she shone.

The Holy Grail was filled.

The power of life overflowed from Yggdrasil's branches and leaves. A huge amount of magic power and vitality was collected from the star and was gathered there.

The power of death from the red star would be confronted with the green power of life.

[Because I, to be in this place, was born into this world]

I remembered her words. For the blue star it was all as planned.

After giving birth to Yggdrasil, the ominous red star would also fall in place.

The branches and leaves formed a cup so that she could take all the impact when the meteorite hit and that was the "Design" of it.

The trunk which had grown for a long time would act as cushioning material for the falling meteorite, that was its "Use".

After calculating everything from the beginning the star had made Yggdrasil.

And to play her part, Yggdrasil had grown slowly until now.

The memory of the dragon didn't reach the age of ancient times...

What's with this destiny!?

The green you. You, for only this day, for all living beings on the star, for what have you lived until now?!

Millions of years or even tens of millions of years. What have you lived for all this time?!

With such a destiny, how could you be so gentle?!

Weren't you scared?! Of the ferocious red star?!

Aren't you scared?! Of the darkness of death?!

[Please escape]

I felt like she had said that.

The power of death from the red star in the sky.

The power life from the green on the ground.

And I finally realized. I was just out of place here.

Yggdrasil was the only one able to oppose that. With the trivial body of a dragon, it wasn't possible to fight against that.

And the red star finally broke through the atmosphere.

The red ice which covered the body of the star, began evaporate from the solar heat and the friction of the air and red steam gushed forth from many places.

It turned into an endlessly huge fireball.

The roaring sound of tearing air, I couldn't hear it.

It was only natural. Because the red star was moving faster than sound.

It came from beyond the world, the other party which was an existence of a different dimension and my body began to tremble *GakuGaku*.

With the color of blood my head also cooled off.

My roar couldn't crush that red star.

Even with my strongest roar I could probably only scrape the surface of the ice.

The speed of red star was much faster than my wings and it headed towards me.

In not even ten seconds my body would be swallowed by the red star.

[Please escape! ]

The voice that I shouldn't be able to hear, I once again heard.

I see. I would die a meaningless death in this place, what will become of me. I would have been glad if she could survive.

And I once again had the illusion that she was telling me to run.

[Please run away! ]

The instinct of the creature dragon also warned me.

It's useless. It's impossible. It's certain death.

I don't want to die! There is still time! Fly with all your power! Escape from the line of fire from the red star!

Yggdrasil doesn't matter! I want to live!

My body screamed that.

[Please run! ]

The sage wisdom born from the dragon's knowledge admonished me.

It's impossible for you. It won't come true. Only on this star you are the strongest.

You aren't the strongest on a different star. It's a meaningless death.

Don't worry about Yggdrasil, the star will save you too.

So my brain whispered.

You should escape. You must escape.

I turned my back to the red star and thought of running away with all my power.

[Let's sing]

Only once. Only the small soul of the cicada said so.

In the body with the dragon's knowledge only the small soul of the cicada foolishly repulsed it.

For your loved ones, I say that you should sing.

The song of courtship, I tell you to sing it to her.

As loud as possible, I want to sing. With all my life I want to sing.

That's right, I'm a cicada. The cicada should only sing.

For my loved ones, I should sing. With a loud voice, I should sing.

I want her to hear it. My song, I want you to hear it.

Therefore,

[Let's sing]

Ahh, let's sing.

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

Can you hear it Yggdrasil?

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

Did it reach you Yggdrasil?

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

The heart of a cicada in the body of a dragon.

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

Though I have such an odd body

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

I to you

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

I love you

Can I break it, this star?

I pulled myself together and clung awkwardly at the huge star and just kept repeating my roar.

The heat from the friction of the atmosphere was terrible. My blood which was the elixir began to boil and steam rose from the area of my navel.

When I clashed with the red star, the lower half of my body had disappeared. The elixir was weak against heat too.

Until Yggdrasil's place, how much distance was left?

Until then I would shave off as much possible from this star.

To the sized where she wouldn't die, could I reduce this star?

With the power left in me, how much of the star could be crushed?

I shouldn't, I shouldn't. It wasn't the time to stop my song.

For her I must sing.

Because I want her to live.

Because I want it to work for her.

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

The roar of courtship, roaring and courting.

For what am I singing, I didn't understand it.

The blood boiled because of the friction and even my brain might be burned.

Only this time I had been singing for Yggdrasil, I didn't understand.

The dragon's knowledge, blood and meat I steadily lost but that didn't matter.

[Let's sing more]

Ah, let's sing. My soul.

Because I love her, let's sing.

And I noticed it at last.

For the one I love I want to sing.

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

Can you hear it, Yggdrasil?

Did it reach you, Yggdrasil?

If you couldn't hear it, I will sing with a louder voice.

If it didn't reach you, I will sing with a stronger voice.

Ahh, I'm happy. Being able to sing for you.

Only for you I'm able to sing.

Because I didn't know you where you are already.

So to you wherever you are.

Resound through the world! My song of joy and courtship!

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min Miin min min min**

Sing, sing...

And then I realized that I was lying on the ground.

I could hear the sound of someone crying from far away.

When I moved my eyes I saw that someone from the harpy race was there crying because she had raised her voice.

I didn't understand it but it's okay. It's getting heavy.

Someone small and soft was pressed against my body.

It was a baby. At his side was the mother. The baby looked just like the mother.

I didn't understand it but it's okay. It's getting heavy.

Then came a lizardman with funny clothes and strangled me.

Huh? Will she kill me? I somehow felt that it was different but I didn't understand it.

However, after a bit she wasn't there anymore.

A frog was crying. I thought that I must also sing but because of my body I wasn't able to sing.

Giants were crying. They were tremendously crying, it's getting heavy. I didn't know what to compare it with.

“Giant... san!... wo!... that place! Hurry! “

It was like a mountain cat, a high pitched voice I could hear close by.

The mountain cat like girl clung to me and I was carried somewhere by large hands.

Where will they carry me to?

Where will I live?

Soon, I wanted to go.

I was dropped on my side.

And from there a very timid whisper could be heard.

Its warmth was transmitted and my soul shook with joy.

Ah, Thank you! Thank you!

To the person who brought me here even though I didn't know you!

That's it! I wanted to meet you!

I know! I know! Only you I currently know.

Yggdrasil.

I heard Yggdrasil crying.

What a relief. She was alive. Yggdrasil.

My song, did you hear it?

My song, did it reach?

I love you.

From Yggdrasil's word a lot of sorrow was transmitted.

It's different. Yggdrasil. I didn't want to make you feel sad.

I wanted you to hear it. For you. My song, only to you.

Don't cry. Because I will sing.

For you, for you, once again.

Only once more, I will sing with my all.

With a loud voice.

I will sing for you

n

# Intermission

*As one really lives, lives, lives, one doesn't know the start of life.*

*As one really dies, dies, dies, one doesn't know the end or death. (Kuukai)*

Once there was a strange cicada.

The cicada hadn't changed at all, so no one noticed it.

In the world there existed hundreds of millions of cicadas, so nobody took interest if only one showed a strange behavior.

The strange one didn't cry.

It didn't cry despite being a cicada. It didn't cry despite being male.

The song of courtship, it never sang it throughout its life.

The cicada did nothing but fly around.

From tree to tree, and once it sipped a bit of sap it immediately moved to a different tree again.

For himself, only one for himself.

The cicada with its short life spent all its time to look for the one tree.

The one in this wide world.

But was the one in this world?

Nobody knew what the cicada was thinking.

It wasn't known if the living being called cicada thought at all.

After its short life as an adult ended, the cicada fell on the asphalt.

A child with an insect cage picked it up and then threw it away.

It was then carried away by a group of black ants.

# Epilogue

## Even a cicada becomes a dragon if reborn

I was surrounded by darkness.

It was like an eternity in the darkness.

The darkness was similar to the earth.

Where was this, who was I, I didn't know.

The things left to do, I felt like a very important thing was left to do, but I didn't understand it well.

Humans regard darkness as death and light as life, so this should be death.

I could neither feel gravity nor see the horizon. It was just black.

But why was it? I could only feel temperature here.

In this darkness of death I only felt warmth.

In the eternal darkness I thought was the end, in the world of darkness that was closed off, something warm was transmitted.

From near and far, voices were transmitted.

“...nee nee, when will ryuu-sama be born?”

“Soon, he will be born soon”

“Can I touch it?”

“D-d-don’t. I-i-it would be bad if the egg broke.”

“Hey Minmi! Behave yourself!”

“Muu... ryuu-sama is inside right? He might wake up if I touch it?”

“You shouldn’t. We should just keep watching until the time ryuu-sama intends to wake up by himself.”

“He’s such a sleepyhead. He sleeps all the time.”

“So. It’s been seven years already. He has been sleeping all the time since Minmi was born.”

“He sleeps too much. Why does he do that? Nee, Harpy oneechan.”

“Minmi! I said that you should behave yourself!”

“...Miko-sama. Will ryuu-san remember us?”

“That..., I think will be difficult. The knowledge and memories dwelled in the body of the dragon. After losing his blood and meat..., already.”

“...The dragon is nearly as big as me.”

“The egg is what was left behind by a miracle. At that time, if Yggdrasil’s sap wasn’t flowing inside his head after he died, then this egg might have never existed.”

“You were so great and took me to the top of the clouds..... All those things..... Have you forgotten them...”

“If he forgot them we only have to tell him it once again! The unknown has just to be known!... Because I, because ryuu-san had taught me a lot, so now it is my turn to teach him this time!”

“Nyuju-chan...”

“That’s right. Teaching him various things he doesn’t know, what greater joy is there in the world?”

“Geeko geko geko geko!”

“Hmm. Music and sculpting, we will teach it to him once again.”

“M-m-making totem poles, I-I will teach him.”

“Nee, Harpy oneechan. Did ryuu-sama make that huge totem pole?”

“That’s right. Everyone’s favorite totem pole was made by him. Minmi do you like the totem pole?”

“Un, love! Because everyone is smiling!”

“...Minmi, your name. I got it from ryuu-sama’s cry.”

“Eh, ryuu-sama cries? Mother is a liar. A dragon’s cry is a scary voice. Nee? Nyuju oneechan.”

“No, only ryuu-san who made the totem pole cried MinMin.”

“Really? Then, why does ryuu-sama cry MinMin?”

“That..., I don’t know.”

“Even Nyuju oneechan doesn’t know.”

“...but, I always think that he should cry like that.”

“Yes. I want to hear it again. Ryuu-san’s song.”

“Geeko geko geko geko...”

“Then, if I sing MinMin, will the sleepyhead ryuu-sama wake up? He shouldn’t be able to understand our words right?”

“Ara. That’s a great idea. It’s there for prenatal care too.”

“Yes. When Minmi was in my belly, he should have heard that song every day.”

“Yes. You can start singing anytime. But you mustn’t touch it, only sing okay?”

“Yes. To ryuu-sama who never wakes up, I will sing with a loud voice.”

“Jaja, jaja. T-t-together now “Se~ no” l-l-let’s sing.”

(TLN: *se~ no* is like ready set go)

“Yosh. Everyone... , see~ noo!”

“Miin min min min!”

“Geeko geko geko geko!”

The outside world, was noisy but somewhat warm.

My body continued getting warmer. It felt comfortable. Because it’s comfortable, should I sleep a little more? I thought so.

– We are waiting –

And I heard a voice.

– For you to sing again –

It was like a sound wave but the voice didn’t reach my ears.

– For us to meet once again –

To my heart, to my soul, the voice was speaking directly to it.

– We believe –

It was a gentle, soft and clear voice.

– Because you –

Ah, who are you?

– Because you promised me –

I remember.

– Because you promised me to sing for me once again –

I remember only you.

– This time, we will sing together –

Though I forgot her name, I remember her.

– With a loud voice like you –

I remember your voice.

– Like this –

My soul remembered.

– **Miin min min min Miin min min min** –

My soul danced.

I didn't know her. However, I knew that she was someone more important than anyone else.

I shouldn't keep her waiting. It wasn't the time to forever stay in this dark world.

Because I wanted to meet you for a long time. Because I had searched for you for a long time.

I broke through the black world.

And the shell that covered this world of darkness was broken.

It's light.

and

it's you

What should I do, my soul told me.

[Let's sing]

Ah, let's sing.

**Miin min min min Miin min min min**

**(THE END)**



PtF by: traitorATZEN